

RENEWED ENGAGEMENT: U.S. POLICY TOWARD PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS

HEARING BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS SECOND SESSION

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC
AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:06 p.m. in room 1324, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Eni Faleomavaega, presiding.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. The subcommittee hearing will come to order. This is the Committee on Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment. I am joined by the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Manzullo, and another distinguished and senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Chris Smith from New Jersey. Always a pleasure to have you, sir, join us. And also my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Jeff Flake.

I am going to begin the hearing this afternoon with my opening statement, and I will then extend the same courtesy to my colleagues for their opening statement concerning this oversight hearing, entitled, "Renewed Engagement: U.S. Policy Toward Pacific Island Nations."

On September 29th of last year, American Samoa, my little territory, was hit by a powerful earthquake, which struck below the ocean about 140 miles southwest of American Samoa, and about 125 miles south of the independent state of Samoa. The earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale set off a massive tsunami with tidal waves up to 20 feet in height hitting these islands, including Tonga, sweeping cars and people out to sea as survivors fled to high ground. In American Samoa, many children running from home unknowingly ran in the direction of the tsunami.

The neighboring islands of Samoa and Tonga were also deeply affected, and as we pause to remember the lives lost and the families impacted, I wanted to once more publicly thank President Barack Obama and this administration for the leadership shown during this tragedy. I also want to thank the U.S. Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, for her unwavering support. At my request and the request of Congresswoman Laura Richardson, Secretary Clinton authorized the needed airlift of some 92,000 pounds of emergency supplies collected by Samoans and non-Samoan communities in the

Los Angeles area, as well as from our Samoan and Tongan communities in Salt Lake City and St. George, Utah.

I will note for the record the Obama administration continues to stand with us, and on behalf of all Samoans, I thank the administration for its swift response.

Based on its statements and actions, the Obama administration clearly recognizes the rising importance of Asia and the Pacific, and has adjusted U.S. policies to reflect emerging realities, including enhanced engagement with the Pacific Island nations integral to this region.

Despite their geographic importance—and by the way, these island nations comprise their exclusive economic zones that cover almost 31 percent of the world's surface. So they may be small islands with small populations, but they take up literally 31 percent of the earth's surface. their EEZ zones. I might say that I have given a little lesson on geography about the realities that we are faced with here in the Pacific. But the steadfast friendship with the United States and consistent partnership with us and the United Nations. Yet, for too long we effectively outsourced our policy making toward the Pacific Islands to Australia and New Zealand.

Unfortunately, the sometimes imperious attitudes and actions of our friends in Canberra and Wellington toward the Pacific Islands have fostered a degree of resentment and distrust that has limited their influence as well as their ability to represent U.S. views and interests. In Australia's case, moreover, its role may now be further constrained by the recent election of a fragile single-seat majority coalition government.

By deferring to the Foreign Ministers of Canberra and Wellington, we have left a vacuum in the Pacific that China has been only too eager to fill. And while the People's Republic of China can and should be a force for prosperity, stability, and security in the Pacific Islands region and around the globe, Beijing's rapid rise presents a unique set of challenges. It is very much in the interest of the United States to develop a coherent, robust, and sustained regional policy toward the Pacific Islands, one that recognizes and ideally compliments China's own rise and prominence in the Pacific.

It was thus reassuring to hear Secretary Clinton last year, in her first appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, pledge to establish, and I quote, "a more comprehensive approach, American approach, to Pacific Island nations." In the 17 months since then, the administration has made tangible progress in meeting that pledge. Secretary of State Clinton just held her second annual meeting with Pacific Island leaders 2 days ago in New York, and I understand it went very well.

Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Assistant Secretary of Defense Chip Gregson also led a high-level U.S. delegation to the August Pacific Island Forum's post-forum dialogue in Vanuatu. As of this week, we have a resident ambassador to Palau for the first time, and at long last an agreement on the compact. The Defense Department is continuing its Pacific Partnership program to provide humanitarian and other assistance, which has been extremely successful. And unless there has been a change—and I will seek clarification on this in my questions—USAID will

be reopening offices in Fiji and Papua New Guinea after a 15-year absence. I might also note with interest that the response that I received in talking to the Pacific Island nations concerning the Pacific Partnership initiated by our country was that it was tremendously successful. And I want to pose a question to my friends for the administration. I hope it is not going to take another 40 years before we have another Pacific Partnership program for these island countries.

These are all important steps, and the administration deserves credit for seeing to it that Secretary Clinton's pledge has already borne fruit. But if we seek to play a role in the Pacific commensurate with our interests, we have far more to do. After so many years of U.S. neglect, Pacific Island nations need and deserve further tangible evidence that the United States is committed to enhancing its engagement with the region for the long term. Toward that end, I believe that we should institutionalize the Secretary of State's annual New York meeting with our Pacific Island leaders. And when the Secretary makes her visit to the Pacific later this year, postponed due to the earthquake in Haiti, I hope she will visit at least two Pacific Island states in addition to Australia and New Zealand.

My invitation to her to stop in American Samoa still stands. Such a visit would support efforts to strengthen U.S.-Pacific Island relations, as well as American Samoa's position as an integral member of the region. It would also give the Secretary a chance to thank the thousands of Samoan men and women who serve in the armed forces and who put their lives on the line every day in the most dangerous parts of the world on behalf of our great nation.

American Samoans, as well as fellow citizens and residents of the territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and those of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic Palau all make the same sacrifices as all other members of the U.S. military. In fact, they serve our country in uniform at higher per capita rates in my understanding of fellow states and territories. They also suffer a greater number of casualties per capita. I was able to honor the sacrifice of one of our brave soldiers from the Federated States of Micronesia when I attended his funeral services in Pohnpei.

In other areas, I believe the United States should institutionalize its participation in the Pacific Islands Forum by creating an ambassador-level position for this important regional organization, just as we now have for ASEAN. U.S. participation in the Pacific Islands Forum should also include Congress, and I will do my utmost to ensure that my colleagues make an effort to attend the next post-forum dialogue event, which I understand is going to be hosted by New Zealand.

The Pacific Islands Forum is particularly important because it provides smaller island states a means of voicing their opinions independent of Australia and New Zealand, as well as the United States. The organization carries out its mission of strengthening regional cooperation and integration. Moreover, this organization is more inclusive than the South Pacific Forum—which it replaced in 2000—and currently has 15 members, namely, Australia, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau,

Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu; two associate members, New Caledonia and French Polynesia; and three observer states, Tokelau, East Timor, and Wallis and Futuna.

Meanwhile, we should move quickly to ensure that President Obama's planned participation in the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders next year in Hawaii takes place. The significance of America's first Pacific President attending that conference cannot be overstated.

We should also enlarge the international visitors leadership program and other exchanges for Pacific Islanders so they can interact more often with their American counterparts. We should increase the presence of Peace Corps volunteers in the region, offer more Fulbright scholarships to Pacific Islanders, and increase funding for the U.S.-South Pacific scholarship program currently run under the auspices of the East-West Center.

The U.S. Navy's Pacific Partnership program, which has been so successful, should be annualized and expanded. This past summer, the hospital ship *Mercy* treated more than 1,000 Palauans. And two summers ago, 15,000 residents of FSM received medical attention. I sincerely hope that the Defense Department understands the value of this program, and does not make our friends in the region wait again for another 40 years or more.

USAID's return to the region offers a chance to assist crucial country-level and regional projects, including those directed at the extraordinary and potentially existential challenges that climate changes poses to Pacific Island nations. The administration should seek to leverage its programs in global warming by complementing ongoing efforts of existing regional organizations such as SPREP and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, as well as new programs being developed at the East-West Center with funding from NOAA.

The United States should also help strengthen the region's economy through promotion of bilateral trade and investment, including encouraging the Pacific Agreement and Closer Economic Relations—that is a mouthful; in other words PACER—to provide maximum economic benefits to Pacific Island nations.

On the difficult issue of Fiji, my own view, based on four trips there since the constitutional crisis last year, and extended discussions with all sides, is that U.S. engagement is absolutely essential. The countries problems are multidimensional, resulting from Fiji's unique colonial history, complex ethnic mix of indigenous Fijians and Indo-Fijians, intra-indigenous Fijian chiefly, provincial and traditional rivalries among families and clans and districts, and religious disagreements.

Clearly, the Australian and New Zealand policies of sanctioning, isolating and punishing Fiji have not only failed, but have been counterproductive. Indeed, with the travel bans that the two countries have imposed and their victories in excluding Fiji from key institutions of the region and beyond—including their attempts to end Fiji's vital contributions to U.N. peacekeeping operations around the world—Fiji has moved ever closer to China.

China has been more than willing to step in to provide soft loans, investments, and now even peacekeeping training for Fiji's mili-

tary, at the same time as their tourists are heading to Fiji in even greater numbers.

I understand that during her meeting with Pacific Island leaders Monday, Secretary Clinton spoke to Fiji's Foreign Minister about developing a bilateral dialogue. I encourage both sides to move forward expeditiously on such a dialogue. I would also encourage the exploration of new multilateral discussions with Fiji, perhaps through the Melanesian Spearhead Group or another venue in which Pacific Island nations take the lead.

I wanted to note for the record it has been my privilege over the years to know one of Fiji's most outstanding citizens, among the first citizens of Fiji to graduate from Sandhurst, and who later became the leader of all Fijian military forces under the administration of the late Prime Minister, Ratu Maru. This gentleman was never in any way connected to the current interim government, yet when he applied to go to New Zealand to have both of his knees operated on, he was denied that opportunity simply because he was a former leader and community leader in Fiji. I am making reference to Mr. Paul Manueli. And as far as I am concerned, that was an absolute act of shameful and disgraceful for New Zealand to deny this prominent citizen of Fiji the privilege of going to have both of his knees operated on in New Zealand. And do you know where he had to go? He had to go to India to get the operation done. That is absolutely ridiculous.

In engaging Fiji, we should recognize that the interim Prime Minister, Frank Bainimarama, has not altered the plans he outlined in his Strategic Framework for Change to draft a constitution reflecting the country's culture and history, to enact electoral reforms that will establish equal suffrage, and to hold free, fair, and democratic elections by the year 2014. In fact, he has reaffirmed that position over the past year, and personally, in my latest meeting with him in Fiji.

On my last trip to Fiji in August, the chairman of the Strategic Framework for Change Coordinating Committee personally briefed me on the blueprint for implementing Fiji's plans for elections in 2014. The focus currently is on economic and social matters. In 2012, Fiji will take up the constitutional and electoral issues, with elections 2 years later.

In my meeting with Prime Minister Bainimarama, during the trip, I suggested Fiji perhaps take up the constitutional, political and electoral reforms now rather than wait 2 years, and that perhaps our Government could give assistance in providing the proper and appropriate advice to give the committee, the examining committee, the opportunity to review, and what would be the best options available then for them to pursue eventually leading toward the election of 2014.

I think we should take Prime Minister Bainimarama at his word when he says he wants to end Fiji's coup culture once and for all, and we should offer suitable resources to facilitate the reform of its electoral process, redraft its constitution, ensure successful elections, and build strong institutions capable of sustaining democracy and stability. Again, I do sincerely thank the administration for moving our policies in the Pacific in the right direction, and for pro-

viding essential assistance not only to my territory, but the countries that were affected by the tsunami and the earthquake.

The witnesses with us here today have helped lay the foundation for progress in U.S.-Pacific relations, and now is the time to use that foundation to develop a sustained, robust, and comprehensive American approach to the Pacific Island nations.

I would like to turn the time over now to my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Smith, for his opening statement.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Faleomavaega follows:]

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**STATEMENT OF
THE HONORABLE ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA
CHAIRMAN**

**before the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC AND THE
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**

“Renewed Engagement: U.S. Policy toward Pacific Island Nations”

September 29, 2010

On September 29, one year ago today, American Samoa was hit by the most powerful earthquake of 2009 which struck below the ocean about 140 miles southwest of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and 125 miles south of Samoa.

The earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale, set off a massive tsunami that crashed into American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga, sweeping cars and people out to sea as survivors fled to high ground. In American Samoa, many children running for home unknowingly ran in the direction of the tsunami.

The neighboring islands of Samoa and Tonga were also deeply affected and, as we pause to remember the lives lost and the families impacted, I want to once more publicly thank President Obama for his leadership during this tragedy.

I also want to thank U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for her unwavering support. At my request and the request of Congresswoman Laura Richardson, Secretary Clinton authorized the immediate airlift of 92,000 pounds of emergency supplies collected by Samoan and non-Samoan communities in the Los Angeles, California area as well as by our Samoan and Tongan communities in Salt Lake City and St. George, Utah.

The Obama Administration continues to stand with us and, on behalf of all Samoans, I thank the Administration for its swift response.

Based on its statements and actions, the Obama Administration clearly recognizes the rising importance of Asia and the Pacific and has adjusted U.S. policies to reflect emerging realities – including enhanced engagement with the Pacific Island nations integral to the region.

Despite their geographic importance, steadfast friendship with the United States and consistent partnership with us in the United Nations, for too long we effectively outsourced our

policymaking toward the Pacific Islands to Australia and New Zealand. Unfortunately, the sometimes imperious attitudes and actions of our friends in Canberra and Wellington toward the Pacific Islands have fostered a degree of resentment and distrust that has limited their influence as well as their ability to represent U.S. views and interests. In Australia's case, its role may now be further constrained by the recent election of a fragile, single-seat majority, coalition government.

By deferring to the foreign ministries of Canberra and Wellington, we left a vacuum in the Pacific that China has been only too eager to fill. And while China can and should be a force for prosperity, stability and security in the Pacific Islands region and around the globe, Beijing's rapid rise presents a unique set of challenges. It is very much in the interest of the United States to develop a coherent, robust and sustained regional policy toward the Pacific Islands, one that recognizes and, ideally, complements China's rise. It was thus reassuring to hear Secretary Clinton last year, in her first appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, pledge to establish "a more comprehensive approach, American approach" to Pacific Island nations.

In the 17 months since then, the Administration has made tangible progress in meeting that pledge. The Secretary of State just held her second annual meeting with Pacific Island leaders two days ago in New York and I understand it went well. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Assistant Secretary of Defense Chip Gregson also led a high-level U.S. delegation to the August Pacific Island Leaders Post-Forum Dialogue in Vanuatu. As of this week, we have a resident Ambassador to Palau for the first time, and at long last, an agreement on the Compact. USAID is reopening offices in Fiji and Papua New Guinea after a 15-year absence, and the Defense Department is continuing its Pacific Partnership program to provide humanitarian and other assistance.

These are all important steps, and the Administration deserves credit for seeing to it that Secretary Clinton's pledge has already borne fruit. But if we seek to play a role in the Pacific commensurate with our interests, we have far more to do. After so many years of U.S. neglect, Pacific Island nations need and deserve further tangible evidence that the United States is committed to enhancing its engagement with the region for the long term.

Toward that end, I believe that we should institutionalize the Secretary of State's annual New York meeting with Pacific Island leaders. And when the Secretary makes her visit to the Pacific later this year – postponed due to the earthquake in Haiti – I hope she will visit at least two Pacific Island states in addition to Australia and New Zealand. My invitation to her to stop in American Samoa still stands. Such a visit would support efforts to strengthen U.S.-Pacific Island relations as well as American Samoa's position as a regional leader. It would also give the Secretary a chance to thank the thousands of Samoan men and women who serve in the U.S. armed forces and who put their lives on the line every day in the most dangerous parts of the world.

I believe that the United States should also institutionalize its participation in the Pacific Islands Forum by creating an Ambassador-level position for the PIF, just as we now have for ASEAN. U.S. participation in the PIF should also include Congress, and I will do my utmost to ensure that my colleagues make the effort to attend.

Meanwhile, we should move quickly to ensure that the President's planned participation in the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders next year in Hawaii takes place. The significance of America's first Pacific President attending that Conference cannot be overstated.

We should also enlarge the International Visitor Leadership Program and other exchanges for Pacific Islanders so they can interact more often with their American counterparts. We should increase the presence of Peace Corps volunteers in the region, offer more Fulbright scholarships to Pacific Islanders and increase funding for the U.S.-South Pacific Scholarship Program run under the auspices of the East West Center.

USAID's return to the region offers a chance to assist crucial country-level and regional projects, including those directed at the extraordinary, and potentially existential, challenges that climate change poses to Pacific Island nations. The Administration should seek to leverage its programs on global warming by complementing ongoing efforts of existing regional organizations such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community as well as new programs being developed at the East-West Center with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Washington should also help strengthen the region's economy through the promotion of bilateral trade and investment, including encouraging the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations negotiations (PACER Plus) to provide maximum economic benefits for Pacific Island nations. And as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) moves forward, I hope that the United States and other countries involved would consider developing links between TPP and PACER Plus. In addition, the Administration should actively encourage the Millennium Challenge Corporation, International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to enhance their programs in the region. For all these organizations, it is critical to remember that a small amount of assistance goes a very long way in the Pacific islands.

On the difficult issue of Fiji, my own view, based on four trips there since the constitutional crisis last year and extended discussions with all sides, is that U.S. engagement is absolutely essential. The country's problems are multidimensional, resulting from the Fiji's unique colonial history, complex ethnic mix, and chiefly, provincial, religious and family rivalries. Clearly, the Australian and New Zealand policies of sanctioning and isolating Fiji have failed. Indeed, one result is that the interim Prime Minister appears to have become ever more reliant on a small group of advisors, some of whom, at a minimum, are not well informed.

I understand that during her meeting with Pacific Island leaders on Monday, Secretary Clinton spoke to Fiji's Foreign Minister about developing a bilateral dialogue. I encourage both sides to move forward expeditiously on such a dialogue. I would also encourage the exploration of new multilateral discussions with Fiji, perhaps through the Melanesian Spearhead Group or another venue in which Pacific Island nations take the lead.

In engaging Fiji, we should recognize that the interim Prime Minister has not altered the plans he outlined in his Strategic Framework for Change to draft a constitution reflecting the country's culture and history, to enact electoral reforms that will establish equal suffrage and to hold free, fair and democratic elections by 2014. In fact, he has reaffirmed that position over the

past year in public statements at international venues such as the World Bank.

I think we should take the interim Prime Minister at his word when he says he wants to end Fiji's coup culture once and for all, and we should offer Suva resources to facilitate the reform of its electoral process, redraft its constitution, ensure successful elections and build strong institutions capable of sustaining democracy and stability.

Again, I do sincerely thank the Administration for moving our policies in the Pacific in the right direction and for providing essential assistance to American Samoa and Samoa after the tsunami. The witnesses here today have helped lay the foundation for progress in U.S. relations with the region. Now is the time to use that foundation to develop a sustained, robust and comprehensive American approach to the Pacific Islands.

Mr. SMITH. Chairman Faleomavaega, thank you very much for permitting me to sit in on your subcommittee, and I do appreciate it. You used the word "courtesy." I think you define the word, so I want to thank you again for that. For years, I chaired the International Ops and Human Rights Committee, and you sat on that committee, and you never ceased in bringing attention and the spotlight to the Pacific Island nations, and you always reminded us of the other nations in the region that suffered so horrendously from the detonations by France of nuclear weaponry, which caused untold damage to people, the ecological damage that was done that continues in the region.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Will the gentleman yield? I recall distinctly when President Chirac, then former President Chirac, decided to break the moratorium on nuclear testing, and decided that he wanted to explode eight more nuclear bombs in French Polynesia. I believe I was on the floor about 20 times trying to share this not only with our colleagues, but with the American people. Such a terrible decision by the country having the fourth largest arsenal of nuclear weapons. And they said, "Oh, we need to test eight more nuclear bombs in the Pacific, but not in France. As for the Pacific and the natives, the heck with them," they said. That is really the attitude that they took. It is okay to test the bombs in the Pacific, but not in France.

But at any rate, I was on the floor about 20 times protesting the nuclear tests. And so when President Chirac appeared, I think in a joint session, I think 170 members decided not to join President Chirac for his speech. I felt that the whole world community was up in harms. But despite all of that, the reason for France to do this was to pay back the nuclear lobby for their support of the President. Now, that is about as critical a national security issue as I can think of. They decided not only to break the moratorium, but to explode more bombs, even though it was totally unnecessary.

I thank the gentleman, and I also want to say for the record that you, sir, have always been the champion of the people whose human rights were violated. Whatever country, whatever region, wherever it is in the world, I consider you truly a friend of those whose rights have been severely abused. And anywhere in the world, my friend, Chris Smith, is always there, and I want to thank you for that.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And I will say, and I say this strongly for the record as well, you are the undisputed leader for the Pacific Island nations, and they could have no better friend because I remember all those years, year in and year out, nobody else was paying attention to it, and you were, and you certainly rallied the members when Chirac was here to express our displeasure.

So I thank you for that leadership. As we all know, my former chief of staff on the subcommittee was our first ambassador to East Timor, Joseph Rees, and we have shared many, many concerns and issues together with you on how to address the ongoing—

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. And thanks to your leadership, we were able to pass a human trafficking law. As it so happens, I had a little problem in my own district with human trafficking, and we took care of that.

Mr. SMITH. As I think you know, the first prosecution—then I will yield back. But the first prosecution that occurred under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was in your area. So that was in 2001, and that law is hopefully having a real impact, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Let me just say also, here to raise, Mr. Chairman, a very important issue—and I will be asking Assistant Secretary Campbell to address issues relating to the left-behind parents. I know it is not the immediate subject matter of today's hearing, but it has to do with Japan and the ongoing terrible human rights abuse of American children, 136 that we know of, that are registered with the State Department. And we are talking about obviously an issue where left-behind parents have been forcibly separated from their own children, and in many cases if they try even to make contact, certainly physical contact, they are in grave peril if they go to Japan to do so. And today or yesterday, but the vote will be today, the House will vote on a resolution, as I think you know, Secretary Campbell, that calls on Japan—it first condemns this situation. It is the strongest language we could have possibly put into a resolution because, frankly, the time is up. People are fed up, and the parents certainly, and the children are being hurt.

We know that abducted children are hurt severely, psychologically, and in every other way. I know that you know that so very well. So time delay is denial, and those children are being, we believe, irreparably harmed in some cases. The resolution also calls for creating a mechanism by which the left-behind parents can be reunited with their children. We all know that, you know, this is not a custody issue. I remember when we were dealing with the David Goldman case, and even with these cases, some people in the press just say, oh, that is just a custody issue. No. Custody issues are decided in the place of habitual residence. This is abduction. This is kidnaping, and it is very, very severe, and it is a very significant human rights abuse.

So I would hope, you know, I will have a few questions as we get to the Q&A part, and I look forward to your answers. And again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for having me on the panel, and I yield back.

Mr. FALCONER. I thank the gentleman for his statement. And I just want to say that we are deeply honored to have with us this afternoon some very distinguished leaders representing the Obama administration. The gentleman to my extreme left is my good friend, Kurt Campbell, the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Secretary Campbell has served in this capacity since June of last year. Previous to that, he was the CEO and co-founder of the Center for the New American Security, concurrently served as director of the Aspen Strategy Group and chairman of the editorial board for the Washington Quarterly.

Dr. Campbell has served in several capacities in government, formerly as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asia and the Pacific, director on the National Security Council's staff, deputy special counselor to the President for NAFTA and the White House, and a former White House fellow at the Department of Treasury. And for his service, he received the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. He also co-authored several books

and so many articles that it is difficult for me to read them all. The gentleman received his bachelor's degree from the University of California at San Diego, and also in musicology from the University of Erevan in Soviet Armenia. He received his doctorate in international relations from Brasenose College at Oxford University, where he was a Distinguished Marshall Scholar.

The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Mr. Derek Mitchell, was appointed in April 2009. Before that, Mr. Mitchell served as senior fellow and director of the Asian division of International Security Programs at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, having joined the center in January, 2009. Secretary Mitchell was the special assistant for Asian and Pacific affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 1997 to 2001. He served in various posts in Hong Kong, Taiwan, as well as Japan. He was also a senior director for the Philippines, Indonesia, Asia, Brunei, and Singapore.

Mr. Mitchell received a master of arts degree in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, studied Chinese language in Nanjing University in China and authored several books. I am very, very happy that he is able to join us this afternoon.

Also with us is senior deputy assistant administrator for the Bureau of Asia at USAID, Dr. Frank Young. He currently leads the Asia Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development, and is currently acting senior deputy assistant administrator, and prior to this appointment, he served as a contractor working on the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review. He is a 29-year veteran of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service. Dr. Young retired from USAID 5 years ago. He served as a senior expert for the Department of Defense partnership to cut hunger and poverty in Africa. And before his retirement from USAID, he served in a wide range of senior management positions in Ghana, as well as in other countries, the Philippines, in India, and other parts of Africa.

Dr. Young holds a Ph.D. in comparative politics and a master of arts in diplomacy, all from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He has a master's in science from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, and he taught at the War College where he is currently an adjunct faculty member.

I tell you, you gentleman are so high-rank, I don't know what to do with you. But I do want to say sincerely, thank you for taking the time from your busy schedules to testify in our oversight hearing this afternoon. And at this time, I would like to have Secretary Campbell, if you could, begin. Without objection, all of your statements will be made part of the record. And if you have any additional materials that you would like to submit for the record, it will be done.

I am beginning to feel like Ramses, it will be done, and it will be—Secretary Campbell, please proceed.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE KURT M. CAMPBELL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is an honor to be before you today and to be with my colleagues here.

I want to thank you as a true son of the Pacific for all the commitment you have given to our nation and to this extraordinarily important region. I also want to thank, frankly, Congressman Smith for his comment, entirely appropriate. It is very important that we raise the profile of this issue. I was actually going to begin my statement by pointing out individuals, parents that I have gotten to know over the course of the last year. And I want to say a word about that, if you will allow me, before I go into my testimony. And I appreciate your interest not only in this matter, but in the important matters that we are discussing today in terms of the Pacific Islands.

One of my responsibilities at the Department of State is to interact with this extraordinarily dedicated, patient, and frankly courageous group of parents. My first meeting with them was about a year ago. I went into the meeting. I was woefully ill prepared, did not understand the issues, did not understand the history. And I remember coming out of that meeting and saying, that is never going to happen again. I am never going to let this group of people and this issue down. And I have tried since then to work, put together a task force at the State Department, and generally raise our game in terms of this critical issue. And I would agree with everything you said, and I would go a step further, that in many respects these children have been unlawfully separated from their parents, and this is a result of Japan, our closest ally in the Pacific, not signing the Hague Convention, and it is a problem. And frankly, I stand with no one in terms of my strong commitment to Japan.

I have worked my entire professional career on sustaining a strong relationship with Japan. We have raised this appropriately and responsibly at the highest levels last week in New York. We are going to need to see some progress on this issue. And so I thank you for your leadership on this. It is entirely appropriate to raise it. I just want to commend you for that, and for the extraordinary fortitude and persistence of these parents, who persist in an environment that I am not sure I could personally tolerate. And so I want to just tell you of my personal commitment to this issue, and I will do everything possible. I will be in Japan next week. I will raise it with all of my Japanese interlocutors, and I share your desire to see progress on this as we move forward. And I thank you and your colleagues for raising this issue to the attention of the U.S. Government and our Japanese friends.

Let me just say a few things, if I can, Mr. Chairman. I would like to submit my full testimony for the record, so I don't need to go through it in great detail, if that is all right.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Without objection.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Thank you. With me today is an enormously committed group of friends from the State Department. We are a small team. You know the Shakespearean, a few small, but the people who work on the Pacific Islands are truly dedicated professionals. They care deeply about the people of the islands. They care deeply about the American heritage there. And I have to say, no person more than you has helped us, both in terms of advice and suggestions and the occasional prodding, and sometimes that prodding is

quite direct, but it is appreciated and sometimes necessary as we focus on these issues.

I want to say generally, Mr. Chairman, we talk a lot about stepping up our game in the Asia Pacific region, but too often we focus on the A part of this and not enough on the P part of it, the Pacific part. And what we have seen over the course of the last generation is a systematic walking away from some of the critical commitments the United States has made, both in terms of blood and treasure, over generations in the Asia and Pacific region. And I think one of the things that we need to be very clear about, it is in the American strategic, moral, political, and economic interests to have a strong relationship with these island nations and the peoples of the Pacific. And I thank you for your leadership, and I ask that you continue it. It gives us heart and sustenance as we go forward.

We have tried over the course of the last many months to step up our efforts. You have articulated several of those matters, and you have put a few ideas on the table, which frankly I think are excellent, which I would like to follow up with you on directly. But I just want to just say a few words of what we have accomplished to date.

First of all, it was terrific to be with you a few months back in Vanuatu. I know neither of us really wanted to leave, it was so lovely there. We were there for the Pacific Islands Forum. I think, as you know, Mr. Chairman, you were an official guest, and next year we would like to see more Members of Congress at that session. And frankly, it was the largest multi-agency group we have ever brought to the Pacific. Very grateful to have my colleague and dear friend, General Gregson, with us, who has a particular interest in renewable energy and security issues in the Pacific, and he has followed up on many of the issues that he discussed when he was out there.

I want to commit to you that I will participate and I will bring a similar delegation next year to New Zealand. We need to make this a regular feature of our diplomacy, and you will be pleased to know, Mr. Chairman, that at the end of the session on Monday with the Pacific Island leaders, Secretary Clinton committed to a yearly process of dialogue at the United Nations, where we will discuss issues of mutual concern and interest. And frankly, that was your idea, your suggestion, and we are grateful to be able to follow up on that.

So our high-level diplomacy I think is in place. As you indicate, Secretary Clinton will be traveling to the Pacific in about a month. We will be going to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand and Australia. And I take on board your suggestion, and I will be back in touch with you about our final travel plans. But I just want to underscore our strong commitment to not only stepping up our diplomatic game in Asia, but in the Pacific as well.

I also must say that all of the nations of the Pacific complimented us on our commitment to step up our game in terms of USAID, and I think Dr. Young will have more to say about that, and I am very grateful for the support and the strong interest at USAID for new and important programs in the Pacific. You will note that we are focusing more and more of our attention not just

on health and education, which are critical components of the health of the societies of the Pacific, but increasingly on the challenges of climate change, not only on issues associated with the direct immediate impacts, but also on some of the specific issues associated with energy.

What is interesting about the Pacific Island nations, no countries on the earth have a greater intensity of sunlight for potential uses for solar energy, but also for wind energy as well. No nations have a lower utilization rate. So there is almost a complete reliance on imported fuels and the like, and working with a variety of agencies inside the U.S. Government, we want to seek to take steps to reverse those trends.

I must also say my general experience, Mr. Chairman, is of a close partnership with Australia and New Zealand, and that together we have been able to advance mutual interests on a whole host of issues. So I will have 1 minute or 2 on Fiji at the end, and I hear very clearly your concerns in this respect.

We have a number of programs that are in play throughout the Pacific. I won't highlight all of them, but I will just refer to a couple, just to underscore our larger commitment. When we were both in Vanuatu, we had the chance to go via the road, the completed road, which was funded under-budget and ahead of schedule by the Millennium Challenge Corporation. We are seeking other opportunities for that kind of innovative program commitment in the Pacific. Despite the fact that these are very small nations, the bang for the buck is enormous. Overall, American per capita investment and aid assistance is comparable with any place in the world, and among any group of nations. And so we are proud of our overall commitment. I believe that one of the critical challenges for the United States, and indeed of other like-minded nations, is that much of the assistance that is flowing into the Pacific from a variety of countries and places, from Japan, from Australia, from New Zealand, from the United States, from the EU, from the multilateral development banks, and the international financial institutions is extraordinarily poorly coordinated, and we need a better mechanism that will allow us to make sure that critical health and other issues are dealt with, and that resources are used appropriately going forward.

I thank you for your kind words on disaster relief. There is a lot of discussion about, you know, rising nations in the Asia and Pacific region. I will just point out by an order of magnitude the country that has stepped up in Indonesia after the tragic in tsunami, in Samoa, in the Philippines after the floods, in Vietnam, time and time again it has been the United States. So it is a little bit like who are you going to call when you have a problem. It is the United States. Our commitment to humanitarian assistance, to strategic engagement remains very strong.

I also thank you for your kind words about innovative programs like Pacific Partnership. We heard last Monday from all the leaders how the visits of the hospital ships are—I want to thank my friend Derek Mitchell for his support for this particular program. The hospital ship spending a few days in port has a greater public diplomacy dimension than almost anything that we do. We have also put in place innovative programs like the Shiprider program. This

is the largest expanse of oceans, the last basically unspoiled fishing stocks in the world. There is a lot of illegal activities underway in these oceans. It is impossible for the small, many impoverished, states to police these claims. Through the Shiprider agreements that the U.S. Navy and the Coast Guard have managed with a number of states, we have been able to assist them in policing these vast waters. We are looking for other ideas and suggestions, and indeed to increase the applicability of such programs going forward.

So we are pleased with some initial steps, but we cannot pat ourselves on the back. We must recognize that we are in the very beginning stages of a recommitment in the Pacific that will take a year, perhaps decades. It must be bipartisan. We must recognize that this is in the strategic interests of the United States, and that when we have circumstances where big countries withdraw, it leaves uncertainty about the future in terms of directions of other kinds of engagement.

I must also say that we face an enormous challenge with respect to Fiji. It is the center sort of architecturally of transportation and the like in the Pacific. I hear very clearly your instructions and your suggestions associated with dialogue, and you are correct that at the Pacific Leaders Forum, Secretary Clinton very graciously engaged the Foreign Minister and indicated that is a high on the American priority to figure out if there is a way that we can be helpful in engaging diplomatically. I must also say we are stepping up our coordination and dialogue with New Zealand and Australia, whom we also believe have key critical interests in Fiji as a whole.

So we have enormous health challenges, climate change, problems of education, problems of poverty. We have done a lot in the region. We have concluded the compact with Palau. But we have much more to do. We look forward to working in close consultation and collaboration with our sister agencies, both at the Department of Defense—I want to commend, if I can, Admiral Willard and Admiral Walsh. Both of them have traveled widely in the Pacific. They are on the front lines of our engagement, and they have done a terrific job. And also, I look looking forward to working closely with our colleagues in USAID as they go forward in terms of their overall recommitment to the Pacific.

I want to thank you again, Mr. Chairman. This hearing was your idea. Frankly, I can't remember the last time we have had such a hearing, too far in between sessions, and we stand ready to work closely with you and your colleagues on a strong, bipartisan executive legislative commitment in the Asia and Pacific region. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Campbell follows:]

**Testimony of Dr. Kurt M. Campbell
Assistant Secretary of State
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
U.S. Department of State**

**Before the
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment**

September 29, 2010

“U.S. Policy in the Pacific Islands”

Chairman Faleomavaega, Representative Manzullo, and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is a privilege to testify before you today on U.S. policy toward the nations of the Pacific. I welcome the opportunity to discuss our approach to this important region.

As you know, the United States has significant moral, historic, and strategic links with the island-nations of the Pacific. Almost 70 years ago, during the dark days of the Pacific campaign, the United States and the people of the Pacific fought side-by-side to counter the Japanese imperial march toward Australia. Our identity as a “Pacific power” was, in many ways, forged on the beaches of the Pacific during World War Two. We often forget about the significant battles, such as Guadalcanal, that in many ways proved to be the most consequential, if not fundamental, to the remarkable growth and stability that the Asia-Pacific enjoys today. Looking back, and using this opportunity to reflect forward, it is remarkable to see the progress that the Pacific Island nations have made over the last half century.

We often speak about the Asia-Pacific, but often overlook the “pacific” element of the equation. The Obama Administration has attempted to renew our focus and commitment to the Pacific nations, in accordance with the important role these nations play in the complex and dynamic regional strategic milieu. Like this Committee and the leadership role that you, Mr. Chairman, play, the President, Secretary Clinton, and others in this Administration deeply appreciate the historic legacy of the Pacific and the strategic role it plays, particularly in the twenty-first century. The region is of vital importance to Asia-Pacific regional stability and to our shared interests in freedom of navigation, mitigation of climate change, energy security, sustainable, robust fisheries, and protecting biodiversity. Moreover, the

Pacific nations play an important leadership role on global issues, particularly in the United Nations and in supporting international peacekeeping missions.

Following the election of President Obama, the United States has worked hard to renew its strong relationships with and commitment to the Pacific Islands. Speaking in Honolulu in January of this year, Secretary Clinton discussed the Administration's efforts to lay the foundation for a revitalized Asia-Pacific relationship. She articulated five principles of America's continued engagement and leadership: using our bilateral alliance relationships as the cornerstone of our regional involvement while pursuing other partnerships and dialogues with regional players; shaping regional institutions to advance shared objectives such as economic development and democracy; ensuring that regional institutions are effective and results-oriented; maintaining flexibility in pursuing objectives, including through sub-regional institutions; and determining which Asia-Pacific regional institutions are the defining ones that include all key stakeholders. We are applying these principles in strengthening our ties with our Pacific Island partners in both multilateral and bilateral arenas.

Our enhanced engagement takes place in a complex and dynamic regional context; and thus, our approach to renewed engagement must be multifaceted and nuanced. I would like to discuss today this approach to broadening our engagement, which emphasizes the crucial role of the Pacific Island Forum; our bilateral and regional initiatives with Pacific Island countries; our work with the Freely Associated States; our approach to Fiji; our initiatives with Papua New Guinea; and our cooperation with Pacific allies and other partners to reach common goals with the Pacific Island countries.

Regional Institutions

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is a perfect example of a sub-regional institution with the potential to advance practical, shared objectives in partnership with the United States and likeminded regional leaders, as suggested by Secretary Clinton in Honolulu. The PIF plays an important role in intra-regional affairs, and we are determined to enhance our engagement with it as a dialogue partner. We will work closely with the Pacific Islands Forum to prioritize regional objectives and advance our common interests.

In addition to working with the PIF, the United States sees opportunities for enhancing the work of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The now 26-member strong SPC is not only the oldest and largest, it is also the premier

regional organization in the Pacific; U.S. Pacific territories, including American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, are full members of its technical agencies. Thus far, three Americans have served as SPC Director General since its inception. Working with the SPC gives the United States the opportunity to standardize climate change policies with the U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States. SPC is a natural partner to advance U.S. and regional agendas in climate change adaptation, food security, fisheries, health, and other priority sectors.

Bilateral and Regional Initiatives

Pacific Island countries are strong partners who punch above their weight, stepping up to deploy police and military forces for peacekeeping missions and participating in U.S.-led combat operations in the world's most difficult and dangerous places. Citizens of the Freely Associated States serve honorably in the U.S. military, and Tongan soldiers have fought alongside U.S. troops in Iraq and will deploy to Afghanistan toward the end of this year. Other Pacific Island countries support global stability by contributing to international peacekeeping efforts, as Fiji's continuing roles in Iraq and the Sinai, and Vanuatu's troop contribution in Timor-Leste and Darfur, ably demonstrate. We applaud Papua New Guinea's recent passage of a law modifying their constitution to allow them to participate in international peacekeeping forces (PKO) and are providing PKO-related training courses through the International Military Education and Training Program (IMET) to assist them in developing a participation program with the relevant UN offices.

At a time of significant shifts in the Asia-Pacific region, the Obama Administration wants to strengthen both our bilateral and our regional interactions with Pacific Island countries. Secretary Clinton met earlier this week with the Pacific Island leaders on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). During that meeting, her second since taking office, she reiterated the importance of the Pacific Islands to the United States and underscored our unwavering commitment to the region. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice cooperates closely with the Pacific Island Permanent Representatives in New York on issues of mutual interest in the UN. This past August, I attended the PIF Post-Forum Dialogue in Port Vila, Vanuatu, with the largest, multi-agency U.S. delegation ever, including key personnel from the Pentagon and Pacific Command. At the meetings, we discussed several issues affecting the region, including climate change, threatened fisheries, and the need for disaster preparedness. I look forward

to continuing this engagement and to working with the region's leaders to address these issues.

As part of our far western border, the Pacific is essential to our security. Our multifaceted engagement with the Pacific Islands will span a broad range of issues -- enhanced development assistance, cooperation on climate change, expanded cooperation on regional security, high-level visits, and people-to-people exchanges. The United States will continue to strengthen efforts to address non-traditional threats, particularly trans-national crime, with our friends in the Pacific and to increase maritime security and law enforcement capacity. We are considering ways to expand our cooperative maritime enforcement ("Shiprider") agreements. To that end, we have already signed agreements with Kiribati, Palau, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Cook Islands, allowing local law enforcement officers to embark on select U.S. Coast Guard vessels and aircraft to patrol their waters. We also continue to explore ways to strengthen cooperation to stem the trafficking of people, arms, and drugs and to stop unregulated and illegal fishing. These are difficult but vitally important tasks.

One of our primary areas of concern in the region is the danger of climate change. It is a common threat to the U.S. and the Pacific Islands, and the President recognizes the urgency of this environmental, economic, and security issue for the people and nations of the Pacific. We are working with partners in the Pacific region and around the world to continue to mitigate global greenhouse gas emissions and actively respond to the adverse conditions of climate change, while promoting the adoption of practical energy approaches including solar power and efficient use of fossil fuels. We are focusing our efforts, including through our Regional Environmental Office in Suva, in the areas of adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and cleaner energy approaches. We are glad to have constructive partners in many of the Pacific Islands individually and in the Alliance of Small Island States.

The United States continues to provide immediate assistance to governments and humanitarian organizations following disasters, and we are expanding the capacity of local disaster management officials to better prepare and respond to emergencies. Within the last year, we have provided over \$1.5 million in aid for cyclone- and tsunami-related disasters in the region, and we continue to build national capacity through ongoing disaster management training and disaster preparedness exercises. Additionally, this year, the U.S. Navy Pacific Partnership visited Papua New Guinea, Palau, and Timor-Leste to advance capacities of these countries to provide care and assistance. And, as you are aware, the U.S. National

Weather Service provides forecasts and warnings throughout the Pacific and coordinates actively with regional partners to share vital information.

The Obama Administration continues to look for areas of convergence with our Pacific colleagues on the full range of climate change issues, so that we might make further progress this year on the important agreement achieved in the Copenhagen Accord last December. As Secretary Clinton highlighted in the aforementioned roundtable with Pacific leaders on the margins of UNGA, we have committed \$21 million over the next two years specifically towards climate adaptation projects and related programs in the Pacific Small Island Developing States. Work in the broad areas of mitigation, adaptation, and clean energy is critical to helping to ensure future security, prosperity, and well-being for those who, like Pacific Islanders, stand at the front lines of climate change.

In addition to providing support for climate change, disaster preparedness, and relief efforts, we seek to work with the regional partners to ensure long-term development. The United States recognizes the impact of the global economic contraction on the region. President Obama remains committed to improving global education and health, reducing poverty, and assuring food security and the United States is constantly looking for ways to better focus foreign assistance in the Pacific region, particularly in the areas of capacity-building, training and technical assistance. One example of our foreign assistance efforts is in Vanuatu, the smallest country to receive a Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact. The \$65 million compact has spurred foreign investment and created jobs; MCC is currently considering Vanuatu's request for a second tranche.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is also programming activities focused on health and global climate change adaptation, designing and implementing these programs in partnership with Pacific Island organizations.

In addition to the contribution of our direct development aid, the planned U.S. military relocation to Guam over the coming years will require approximately 12,000-15,000 workers, creating jobs and opportunities for the region. While the United States will seek to employ as much United States-eligible labor as possible, we will likely have to supplement this effort with foreign labor from eligible countries, including our friends in the Pacific. To help address the labor shortfall, we are looking at ways to include Pacific Island countries in the list of eligible countries from which foreign labor and expertise can be drawn.

It is also important to note the return of the Fulbright Program to the region, and the increased availability of scholarship opportunities for students throughout the region – all of which assist in helping the United States and Pacific Island nations find solutions to shared concerns.

The United States has also supported various multilateral efforts that contribute to strengthening the Pacific-island region. Through the Asia-Pacific Democracy Partnership (APDP), we coordinated multinational election observation missions to the Solomon Islands parliamentary elections in August. We also supported APDP election observers to Bougainville Autonomous Region in Papua New Guinea. In both cases, our observers contributed to advancing the peace and reconciliation process following armed conflicts in the two areas. We have also contributed to peace and reconciliation in Bougainville with the recently completed first phase of a State Department-funded weapons reduction program to destroy WWII-era arms caches at the former U.S. base in Torokina. We are studying a similar program for Guadalcanal WWII sites in the Solomon Islands.

Freely Associated States

We have unique historical ties with the Freely Associated States (FAS) of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The three FAS are an important component of the U.S. position in the Pacific. Starting in 1947 the United States administered the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which included the Northern Mariana Islands in addition to the islands that eventually became the FAS. After many years of consultation, the RMI and the FSM became sovereign nations in 1986 and Palau followed suit in 1994. Through our respective Compacts of Free Association, the United States has maintained extraordinarily close relations with the FAS, providing over \$200 million in annual assistance, administered by the Department of the Interior, to support their governance and economic development.

Our Compacts of Free Association codify relationships between the United States and these former components of the Trust Territory that are unprecedented in U.S. diplomatic history. Each member of the FAS is a sovereign country, and our dealings with the FAS fall within the scope of foreign policy, but our ties with them differ from those with other nations in several fundamental ways. We provide the people of the FAS direct access to the services of over 40 U.S. federal domestic programs and to U.S. government funding at a per capita rate greater than that for any other foreign government; we take responsibility for the security and defense of each of these island states in return for denial of third-country military

access to the FAS; and we give FAS citizens the right to work and live in the United States as nonimmigrant residents within the parameters laid out in the Compacts.

The importance of this special relationship is most clearly manifested in the U.S. defense posture in the Asia Pacific. The U.S. defense relationships in the Asia-Pacific, which form a north-south arc from Japan and South Korea to Australia, depends on our strong relationship with the FAS, which along with Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and the smaller U.S. territories comprise an invaluable east-west strategic security zone that spans almost the entire width of the Pacific Ocean. The Freely Associated States contribute to U.S. defense through the U.S. Army base on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands that houses the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense test site, an important asset within the Department of Defense. Furthermore, the FAS' proximity to Guam is important to US defense interests as the United States has a vital interest in maintaining the ability to deny any hostile forces access to sea lanes that protect our forward-presence in Guam and beyond. Our relationships with the FAS allow the United States to guard its long-term defense interests in the region.

Moreover, while the FAS do not maintain their own military forces, under the terms of our Compacts their citizens are eligible to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Micronesians, Marshallese and Palauans volunteer to serve in the U.S. military at a rate higher than in any individual U.S. state. We are grateful for their sacrifices and dedication to promoting peace and fighting terrorism.

But the importance of our strong relationship with the FAS extends beyond defense considerations. We applaud recent efforts, including on the part of RMI, to explore ways to take into account the effects of climate change in development projects, including many undertaken through the Compact. Such planning is critical to ensure sustainability and effective progress in the FAS, and we continue to support work to "climate proof" all development activities. The Freely Associated States also have one of the highest levels of voting coincidence with the United States in the United Nations and generally share our vision on important international goals for human rights and democracy. Palau accepted six former detainees from Guantanamo for temporary resettlement.

And our people-to-people ties continue to grow. Since 1966, more than 4,200 Peace Corps Volunteers have contributed to English language-learning, life skills education, economic development, education, capacity building, and marine and

terrestrial resource conservation in the Freely Associated States. Today there are approximately 270 Peace Corps Volunteers serving in the five Pacific posts, with about 80 Peace Corps Volunteers serving in Vanuatu, and approximately 50 Peace Corps Volunteers serving in Micronesia and Palau.

Recognizing the far-reaching importance of our relationship with the FAS, the United States is committed to enhancing the democratic process in the Freely Associated States. The maturity of the democratic process in these relatively young states is a testament to the strong values of the people of the Pacific and reinforces the value of the Compacts as a vehicle for their transition to greater self-sufficiency. To this end, the second set of compacts with the RMI and the FSM, which took effect in 2003, require collaborative, bilateral and interagency oversight of the use of Compact funds and mandate bilateral management of trust funds to ensure economic sustainability in future years. This year marks an important milestone in the U.S.-Palau Compact of Free Association. On September 3, the United States and the Government of Palau successfully concluded the 15-year review of the Compact of Free Association and signed an agreement that includes a \$250 million package of assistance through FY 2024. Included in this figure are \$21 million to subsidize postal service to all the Freely Associated States and \$13.3 million Palau received this fiscal year prior to the conclusion of the review. Under the agreement, Palau committed to undertake economic, legislative, financial, and management reforms. The conclusion of the agreement reaffirms the close partnership between the United States and the Republic of Palau. We are currently working on getting the draft legislation to Congress. In addition, the United States has established an embassy in Palau and stationed our first resident U.S. Ambassador there.

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is by far the largest, wealthiest and most populous Pacific Island country; its influence is felt throughout the region. The United States sees the growth of the economy in Papua New Guinea (PNG) as beneficial to the region. PNG is on the verge of exploiting hydrocarbon resources that could enable it to become one of the world's largest exporters of natural gas, fundamentally transforming PNG's economy and society. We have a strong interest in the success of PNG's energy sector and related public financial management reforms.

However, the government has moved slowly on public financial management reforms and recently attempted to dilute the powers of the national ombudsman. Corruption, misuse of resources, and lack of capacity have led to declining social

services and increasing poverty. In PNG, gender discrimination also threatens to derail progress in civil society and economic development. Beatings and rape are common; women are ignored in the workplace; and female education and literacy rates are far below those of men. Reform-minded government leaders in PNG are looking for U.S. support and guidance. We are examining ways to assist PNG in natural resource governance and in educating and empowering women with the hope of supporting PNG to reach the full promise of its development.

Fiji

Inextricably linked with regional economic development is the vital issue of good governance. In this arena, the current state of affairs in Fiji is a matter of on-going concern. Traditionally, Fiji has been a close and valued friend and partner in the region, as well as a leading voice for Pacific Island democracy. Fiji also has a long history of contributing troops to multilateral peacekeeping missions, was quick to condemn the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, and has been a staunch supporter of our efforts to build an international coalition against global terrorism.

However, since the 2006 coup in Fiji, and the ascendance of the military regime led by Prime Minister Bainimarama, there has been an unfortunate reversal of Fiji's leadership role. Fiji's exclusion from the Pacific Island Forum since 2009 has detracted from progress on important regional issues.

Fiji's coup leaders have not taken any credible steps to restore democratic institutions. After breaking a promise to hold elections in 2009, they now promise to begin work in 2012 to craft a new constitution and hold elections in 2014. They also promised to lift public emergency regulations, but the regulations remain in place, the press remains heavily censored, and the right to assembly is severely restricted. Fiji has failed to restore democracy or institute structural reforms. The entrenchment of authoritarian rule indifferent to criticism has become a dangerous model for the region and the global community.

The United States maintains sanctions pursuant to Section 7008 of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act and other policy restrictions, including limitations on military and other assistance to the Government of Fiji. This includes visa bans against coup leaders, suspension of certain military sales, and restrictions on certain bilateral engagement. The United States calls for an open, inclusive, and transparent process for free and fair elections, the re-establishment of an

independent judiciary, and an end to media crackdowns and other limits on civil liberties.

To date, we have focused our efforts on areas where our engagement is yielding positive results and serves to illustrate the advantages of a more positive bilateral partnership. We continue to provide assistance in ways that support the Fijian people and promote our interests, for example, for disaster preparedness and combating transnational crime. Despite the difficult political environment, the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, through the Human Rights and Democracy Fund, is now supporting multi-year programs in Fiji on media training and on ethnic dialogue and tolerance.

We now hope, in close coordination with regional players, to seek more direct engagement with Prime Minister Bainimarama to encourage his government to take steps to restore democracy and freedom that would allow movement toward normalization of Fiji's relations with other countries in the region. This engagement would spotlight the potential benefits of positive political steps, while reinforcing the message that any easing of U.S. sanctions is tied to the restoration of democratic processes.

Our objective is to put Fiji back on track for reintegration into international institutions and for holding free and fair elections no later than 2014. By taking credible steps towards an increased civilian role in government and other democratic reforms, the regime could build confidence, in accordance with agreed upon benchmarks and timelines, that would lead towards the restoration of Fiji's former international role and stature.

Working with Regional Players

As we strengthen our engagement in the Pacific, we will actively cooperate with other important players in the region to advance the stability, prosperity, and freedom of the people and nations of the Pacific Islands.

We have long collaborated closely with Australia and New Zealand, who have deep historical, economic, and strategic ties with their Pacific Island neighbors. The United States recognizes the very real leadership role Australia and New Zealand play in the South Pacific region. Both nations' vigorous leadership and foreign assistance to countries in the region play a key role in promoting the welfare of people throughout the Pacific. Close cooperation and coordination with Australia and New Zealand will continue to be a hallmark of our Pacific strategy.

Working closely with our key allies, Australia and New Zealand, we will continue to pursue strategies to promote shared interests in peace and stability in this important and dynamic region.

We also welcome the increasingly prominent role of newer players, particularly Japan's leadership in renewable energy and climate change issues. We are also pleased to consult regularly with the European Union, which is increasingly engaged in the region, on developments and policies in the Pacific.

And just as we welcome the increased role for our allies, we also note the efforts of other countries who seek to play a constructive role in the region. The United States shares a common interest with China and Russia in the development and welfare of the Pacific Islands. There is no zero-sum competition between the United States and China or Russia in the Pacific. Rather, we seek to identify areas of potential cooperation that can ensure regional stability, security, and prosperity. It was in that spirit that I raised possible cooperation in the Pacific Islands with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai during his visit to Washington last month. We welcome engagement by other countries desiring to enhance the prosperity, stability, and democratic governance of the Pacific Islands through transparent interactions and engagements. We also seek to continue our work through multilateral assistance programs. On-going substantive discussions in Washington and in-country with the Asian Development Bank and World Bank aim to ensure that we are working in a coordinated fashion and our activities have successful outcomes.

Conclusion

The United States is enhancing our engagement in the Pacific, now and for the long term. I am encouraged by the progress this Administration has made thus far and by the positive reception our efforts have received in the region. Undoubtedly, we must continue to identify new and better ways to engage with the Pacific, we appreciate the interest and leadership of this Committee and the support you have given to our efforts. I look forward to on-going cooperation with the Congress to advance U.S. interests in the Pacific and contribute to a secure, prosperous and democratic future for the nations and people of the Pacific.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to testify about U.S. policy in the Pacific Islands. I look forward to answering your questions.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Thank you, Mr. Secretary, and I deeply appreciate your testimony. Secretary Mitchell, for your statement.

STATEMENT OF MR. DEREK J. MITCHELL, PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ASIAN AND PACIFIC SECURITY AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Representative Smith, thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today, and thank you as well for your opening statements and for your work on behalf of the Pacific Island nations. Before I begin, let me add my voice to yours, Mr. Chairman, of respect and condolences to the people of American Samoa on the anniversary of the earthquake last year. I hope it does demonstrate that we will be there for the Pacific Island nations in their time of need, in the good times as well as bad.

It should go without saying that as a Pacific nation, the United States has national interest throughout the entire Pacific Islands region. Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the countries in the Pacific are all important U.S. partners and contributors to common security. The Pacific Islands region is often overlooked and undervalued, as you have stated, despite its enormous geography, rich fisheries, and unique geopolitical position.

However, as there are significant DoD equities in the Western Pacific, we see a unique and important opportunity to reinforce U.S. defense engagement in the region. The region is becoming an increasingly valuable base for projecting U.S. military power into the Asia Pacific region. Aside from Guam, which gets much public attention nowadays, the department places high priority on the Freely Associated States with whom we have defense obligations under our respective compacts, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

The compact agreements assign to the United States full responsibility for defense of these states, and the DoD takes its bilateral defense relations seriously. We also value the rights afforded under the compacts, and will continue to defend these nations and exercise our right of strategic denial of third parties to operate in these states.

At the same time, we should not forget that our defense commitment to the Freely Associated States plays an important role in the defense of our homeland here in return. The department continuously seeks creative ways to shape and influence the regional security environment. We believe we must have a sustained presence in the region in order to maintain political and military leadership in an evolving strategic environment.

Our engagement in the Pacific Island region continues to focus on developing partner capacity and capability to improve maritime domain awareness through maritime surveillance, information sharing, joint patrolling, and infrastructure development. Currently, the U.S. has six cooperative maritime U.S. Coast Guard Shiprider agreements, as Secretary Campbell talked about, with Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Cook Islands, and Tonga. These Shiprider agreements allow the Coast Guard and island law enforcement officers

to embark on selected Coast Guard aircraft and vessels to help patrol the waters within U.S. exclusive economic zones, and in the 200-mile EEZs of participating Pacific Island states. While these Shiprider programs have been considerably successful, DoD is currently considering ways to expand these agreements to the U.S. Navy and to include other Pacific Island states.

Overall, the department's security assistance efforts focus on three components: Maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and training opportunities. On the latter, the department deeply appreciates and will continue to consider Vanuatu's and Palau's offer to host U.S. military training. We also envision possible increased bilateral and multilateral training in Guam, CNMI, and the compact states.

On maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, the department, through the implementation of strategic engagement and security cooperation programs will continue to work to empower the Pacific Island countries to take responsibility into their own hands, building their capacity to address non-traditional security threats, such as illegal fishing and transnational crime, as well as respond effectively to natural disasters and defend their land and sea borders. At all times, we will work in partnership.

Perhaps the department's most successful engagement tool has been humanitarian assistance programs. These programs include the Pacific Air Force's annual large-scale humanitarian mission Pacific Angel and Operation Christmas Drop, the largest running organized air drop in the world and one of the largest charity efforts in the Pacific.

We will continue to build on the success and we understand the value of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Partnership program to operate medical and engineering projects in remote, underserved communities throughout the entire Pacific Islands region. We will take back the notion that you lay out of expanding this annually.

As you stated, in August 2008, the Pacific Partnership medical personnel treated more than 15,000 locals in the Federated States of Micronesia. Pacific Action Team, based in Palau, comprised of 12 military personnel, will continue to coordinate a range of humanitarian and civic action projects in health, education, and infrastructure.

We also look forward to working with these nations on broader international security initiatives. As you have stated, Mr. Chairman, our special defense relationship with the compact states allows for their citizens to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. They serve at a higher per capita rate and fall at a higher per capita rate than American citizens, and serve in both Afghanistan and Iraq. A number of them have fallen alongside American troops on the battlefield. These nations should know that the Department of Defense recognizes their sacrifice, and is indebted for their enormous contributions to U.S. and global security.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Defense will continue to work alongside partners like Australia, France, Japan, and New Zealand to coordinate our security activities for this region, but we will not outsource our engagement. As a Pacific nation, the U.S. bears special responsibility to provide sustained and effective defense engagement to ensure peace and stability in the

Asia Pacific. It is therefore imperative that the department continue to nurture existing relations with the North Pacific while deepening and expanding our defense and security bilateral and multilateral relations with the South Pacific.

So I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Mitchell follows:]

**Statement of
Derek Mitchell
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Asian & Pacific Security Affairs
Submitted to the**

**House Foreign Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment**

September 29, 2010

U.S. Defense Policy Toward Pacific Island Nations

Introduction

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the privilege of appearing before you to discuss United States defense strategy in the Pacific Islands region. This region is often overlooked and undervalued despite its enormous geography, rich fisheries and unique geopolitical position in the Asia Pacific. Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), American Samoa, and the countries in the Pacific are all crucial U.S. partners and contributors to security in the Pacific Islands region. Additionally, the Pacific Island militaries punch above their weight; for instance, the Tongan Royal Marines served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and will soon to deploy to Afghanistan. The Fiji military maintains their longstanding leadership in International Peacekeeping. In addition, our defense commitment to our long-standing strategic partners, the Freely Associated States, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, plays an important role in the defense of the homeland.

As a Pacific nation, the United States has national interests throughout the entire Pacific Islands region. Under the current leadership of President Obama, United States engagement with the Asia Pacific has been reinvigorated. My remarks today will focus specifically on United States bilateral and multilateral relations with the island countries in the Western Pacific. As there are significant DoD equities in the Western Pacific, we see a unique and important opportunity to reinforce United States defense engagement in the region.

Status of U.S.-Pacific Islands Security Relations

The Western Pacific is a sparsely populated, physically isolated, and geographically widespread region that comprises 18 island states across six time zones. The region's lack of political and security infrastructure has attracted a growing trend of illicit activities, notably illegal fishing and the trafficking of arms, humans and narcotics.

Many of the island states lack sufficient legal and law enforcement capability to manage their own security issues. Considering the state of regional security and growing transnational crime in the Western Pacific, the Department of Defense has begun to more actively engage in the region to assist our friends build capability and capacity, particularly to promote regional maritime security.

While the United States has been militarily engaged in this region since World War II, things have changed in regional security in the Western Pacific. Australia, Japan and New Zealand remain crucial providers of regional security, but we are seeing increasingly active engagement from other global players, most notably China. As one of the Pacific's traditional power bases, the United States is in the process of refocusing and redefining its role, responsibility and strategy in the Western Pacific in order to maintain political and military leadership in this evolving strategic environment. The Department's long term goals are to incorporate the island states into the Asia-Pacific regional security architecture, promote their integration into the international community, and bolster their security (military and/or police) forces' capability, capacity and readiness to respond to emerging non-traditional security threats at home and abroad. Through the implementation of strategic engagement and security cooperation programs, we work to empower the Pacific Islands countries to take responsibility into their own hands, and defend and secure their own land and sea borders and to contribute to regional and international peacekeeping efforts.

We will also continue to directly engage with the leadership of these islands countries through regular dialogue. The annual Pacific Islands Forum Post-Forum Dialogue as well as the Joint Committee Meetings with the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau afford us a unique opportunity to evaluate and assess U.S. engagement activities in the region on a regular basis.

North Pacific

Based on our Homeland Defense and Defense treaty obligations, the Department of Defense's primary attention has been on the North Pacific Island nations and territories, including Guam, CNMI and the three Compact nations. As reflected in the military build up in Guam and CNMI, strategic interests and equities are shifting more toward the Asia Pacific region. As this region becomes an increasingly valuable base for projecting U.S. military power into the Asia Pacific region, the Department must continuously seek creative means and ways to shape and influence the regional security environment. As the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review states, "...[the United States] will continue to ... transform Guam, the westernmost sovereign territory of the United States, into a hub for security activities in the region." Because Guam and CNMI are special U.S. territories and the Compact nations are our treaty partners, we must have a sustained presence in the region and we must pay particular attention to partner capacity building. U.S. Pacific Command will continue to assist the region responding to non-traditional security threats, namely illegal fishing, transnational crime, including the trafficking of drugs, weapons and persons.

Similarly, the Department places high priority on the Freely Associated States with whom we have defense obligations under our respective Compacts: Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau. The Compact agreements assign to the United States full responsibility for defense of these states and the DoD takes its bilateral defense relations seriously. We also value the rights afforded under the Compacts and will continue to defend these nations and exercise our right of strategic denial of third parties to operate in these states. Especially critical to our national security interest is the RMI-based U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) operated by the U.S. Army Space Missile Defense Command (SMDC).

It is especially important to note that our special defense relationship with the Compact states allows for their citizens to serve in the United States Armed Forces. Indeed, they serve at a higher per capita rate than American citizens and serve in both Afghanistan and Iraq. A number of them have fallen alongside American troops on the battlefield. The Department of Defense recognizes and is indebted for their enormous contributions to United States and global security.

South Pacific

While the Department lacks any special defense relationship with the island states in the South Pacific, we view our engagement with them as necessary and of strategic importance. We collaborate with those countries with militaries, specifically Papua New Guinea and Tonga, as well as those with non-military security forces. Professional military education, funded by International Military Education and Training, Foreign Military Financing and Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), supports numerous bilateral and multilateral training to assist our island partner countries to effectively respond to transnational crime and maritime security. The primary focus of our training and assistance programs is on building partner capacity while instilling values of democracy, rule of law and human rights.

The Department also works closely with Tonga to elevate their security forces' capacity. In a strong show of mutual support and friendship, Tonga has actively supported international coalition missions. The Tongan Defence Services, with which Marine Forces Pacific has extremely good relations, recently deployed to Iraq and plans to deploy to Afghanistan later this year. And while there are existing foreign assistance restrictions with respect to Fiji, DoD offers training in certain areas such as law enforcement and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief.

U.S. Defense Strategy

Sustained engagement in the region will ensure that the United States will continue to shape and influence regional security in the Pacific Islands. The U.S. Navy (USN) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) conduct ship visits and send mobile training teams to the region to provide in-country training on maritime surveillance, law enforcement, disaster relief, disaster management and reconstruction assistance. Our principal goal remains building partner capacity with our partners and allies in the Pacific Island region. The Department will focus on three components: 1) maritime security, 2) humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and 3) training opportunities in the region.

Maritime Security: The island nations in the Pacific often lack political and law enforcement capabilities to protect their most valuable resource: fisheries. Defense programs aim to build partner capacity to ensure that the island states develop the necessary skills and capacity to enhance fisheries protection in the region. U.S. Pacific Command, the Department's direct link with the Pacific Island countries, coordinates regional maritime security activities and executes bilateral and

multilateral Defense activities through the USN and USCG. In times of crisis, the USCG supports search and rescue operations at the request of local governments.

The Joint Interagency Task Force-West (JIATF-W) has an active role in coordinating regional counter-narcotics programs. In cooperation with the Australian Federal Police and islands' national police forces, JIATF-W operates Transnational Crime Units to collect and share information and intelligence, support anti-transnational crime activities and conduct maritime surveillance. JIATF-W will continue to collaborate closely with Australia to ensure that local security forces develop the necessary capabilities and capacity to interdict transnational criminal activities within their own maritime borders.

Engagement in the Pacific Islands region continues to focus on developing partner capacity and capability to improve maritime domain awareness through maritime surveillance, information sharing, joint patrolling, and infrastructure development. Currently, the United States has six cooperative maritime U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) shiprider agreements with Pacific Island nations (Palau, FSM, RMI, Kiribati, Cook Islands, and Tonga). These shiprider agreements allow USCG and island law enforcement officers to embark on selected USCG aircraft and vessels to help patrol the waters within U.S. exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and in the 200-mile EEZs of participating Pacific Island states.

While these shiprider programs have been considerably successful, DoD is currently considering ways to expand these agreements to USN and with other Pacific Island states. The Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI) is a pending Secretary of Defense executive order which will allow us to leverage DoD assets transiting the region to increase maritime domain awareness and support for maritime law enforcement operations. The executive order would expand the six existing cooperative maritime USCG shiprider agreements with Pacific Island nations, pending their approval, to include USN vessels and aircraft. This initiative will allow for a more coordinated and active U.S. role in supporting regional maritime security by building partner law enforcement capability, improving interoperability and ensuring maritime security in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Broadly speaking, OMSI would enhance U.S. defense presence and engagement in the region.

Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief: Perhaps the Department's most successful engagement tool is humanitarian assistance programs. These programs include the removal of explosive ordnance devices from the World War II era; prisoner of war-missing in action operations throughout the Western Pacific;

medical and engineering projects, Pacific Air Force's annual large-scale humanitarian mission Pacific Angel; and Operation Christmas Drop, the longest running organized air drop in the world and one of the largest charity efforts in the Pacific whereby members of our Armed Forces in Guam collect and deliver humanitarian supplies to various communities throughout the Western Pacific. Such programs are evidence that our engagement in the Western Pacific extends well beyond traditional security parameters.

We will continue to build on the success of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Partnership program to operate medical and engineering projects in remote, underserved communities throughout the entire Pacific islands region. In the summer of 2010, U.S. hospital ship MERCY sailed to Palau and dispatched teams to various underserved communities and treated more than 1,000 Palauans. And in August 2008, Pacific Partnership medical personnel treated more than 15,000 locals in the Federated States of Micronesia. In addition, the Civic Action Team based in Palau, comprised of 12 military personnel, will continue to coordinate a range of humanitarian and civic action projects in health, education, and infrastructure.

Future U.S. Military Training: As we continue to develop closer relations with the Pacific islands states, the Department will explore opportunities to reinforce our presence in the region. We deeply appreciate and will continue to consider Vanuatu and Palau's offers to host U.S. military training. We envision possible increased bilateral and multilateral training in Guam, CNMI, and the Compact states.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges of U.S. engagement and the complexities of an evolving security environment, there are still immense opportunities for cooperation. We will continue to work alongside partners such as Australia, France, Japan and New Zealand to coordinate security activities for this region. The United States will protect and defend the U.S. territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In addition, we remain ever committed to the defense and security of the Compact states.

Rising transnational crime, evolving regional security architecture and new U.S. strategic posturing are trends that reinforce the need for American defense engagement in the Western Pacific. As a Pacific nation, the U.S. bears special responsibility to provide sustained and effective defense engagement to ensure peace and stability in the Asia Pacific. It is therefore imperative that the

Department continue to nurture existing relations with the North Pacific while deepening and expanding our defense and security bilateral and multilateral relations with the South Pacific. We need to reassure the island states of sustained U.S. engagement and our shared interest in regional and global stability.

Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Thank you, Secretary Mitchell. Our Deputy Assistant Administrator for USAID, Dr. Young, please.

STATEMENT OF FRANK YOUNG, PH.D., SENIOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU FOR ASIA, UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. YOUNG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a statement which has been submitted, and I request it be included in the record.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Without objection, all your statements will be made part of the record.

Mr. YOUNG. And I have brief oral remarks drawn from that statement, which I would like to deliver, with your permission.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Please proceed.

Mr. YOUNG. Chairman Faleomavaega, Representative Smith, I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the U.S. Agency for International Development's views on renewed engagement in the Pacific. First, let me join my colleagues in thanking you for your passionate commitment to the region, and thank you for your leadership in focusing U.S. attention to the Pacific, a region of growing geopolitical importance to the United States. We share your commitment, and appreciate the opportunity to discuss our programs and strategies for strengthening our partnerships in cooperation with Pacific nations. I likewise join my colleagues in expressing condolences to the people of Samoa on the anniversary of the disastrous earthquake, and note that USAID stands ready to respond with other U.S. Government agencies in case such a disaster ever occurs again.

From a development perspective, we know that nations in the Pacific are among the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of global climate change, as well as some of the least able to respond. We know these changes affect life and livelihoods in many countries in the Pacific, threatening catastrophic warming and resource-based instability. In the Pacific, climate change threatens the very existence of some island nations, and is, hence, the top priority for this region in this century. I associate myself with your remarks, Mr. Chairman, where you called it an existential threat, a sentiment echoed by the Secretary a couple of days ago.

Many Pacific Islanders already experience the effects of sea level rise: More frequent storms due to climate change, and other extreme climate events that can impact water, coastal, and marine resources, and of course, agriculture. To try to avert the worst-case scenarios, USAID, in collaboration with the Department of State, is leading U.S. Government efforts to ensure that the least developed states in the Pacific region are better able to adapt to the changes in practical and life-saving ways as they grow their economies.

To make sure we focus our efforts appropriately, USAID will engage governments and residents in setting priorities and designing programs to address critical climate-affected needs, such as water catchments, mangrove conservation, crop adjustments to salt intrusion, and possibly land and migration impacts.

In this fiscal year, 2010, we have \$3 million for climate change adaptation work in the Pacific region, and the State Department has an additional \$9 million that will be programmed in coordina-

tion with USAID. An additional \$9.5 million in USAID funds for global climate change is proposed for Fiscal Year 2011.

I met earlier this month with Director General Jimmie Rogers of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to review his ideas for advancing a shared effort on global climate change. Tomorrow, David Shepperd, director of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program, will be reviewing SPREP's new 5-year strategy with our global climate change team at USAID. We expect these discussions to lead to a number of shared activities in the region.

USAID has also noted threats to health represented by the very serious HIV/AIDS problem in Papua New Guinea. USAID has been notably active there, implementing a bilateral assistance program valued at \$2.5 million a year that focuses on reducing that country's HIV/AIDS prevalence rates. Papua New Guinea also benefits from regionally funded programs to protect tropical forests, and with the Solomon Islands participates in USAID and Department of State funded Coral Triangle Initiative.

USAID has also been active in responding to natural disasters in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Fiji, and is poised to do so in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Since 1995, USAID has implemented the Pacific Islands disaster program, which aims to improve the disaster management ability of local and national disaster management agencies and individuals. And currently, USAID supports a full-time officer in Majuro to provide disaster preparedness, recovery, and reconstruction in the event that a disaster occurs in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Looking forward, Mr. Chairman, USAID currently has a senior officer, a former USAID mission director, traveling in the Pacific region for 3 months to lay the groundwork for expanding our partnerships in the region to work on global climate change issues, and to examine opportunities to work with government and non-governmental organizations on health challenges in Papua New Guinea.

I want to point out, Mr. Chairman, this is the first time in almost 15 years that we have a senior official from USAID traveling the region for this purpose. This official will also examine effective and appropriate ways to support and manage our activities in the region and he will report his findings to USAID by the end of this calendar year.

Mr. Chairman, USAID remains committed to renewing strong partnerships in the Pacific region and to finding the most effective ways to develop and sustain these partnerships in light of the budget constraints faced by USAID and all government agencies. Our commitment to engage and intensify activities that address the significant challenges faced by nations in the Pacific region remains strong.

We look forward to carrying out that commitment, and to working with Congress to ensure that our interests and those of the people of the Pacific region are well served. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Young follows:]

Statement Submitted by
Frank Young
Acting Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Asia
U.S. Agency for International Development

House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global
Environment
Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, Chairman

Renewed Engagement: U.S. Policy Toward Pacific Island Nations

September 29, 2010

Chairman Faleomavaega, Ranking Member Manzullo, and Members of the Committee, I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the U.S. Agency for International Development's views on renewed engagement in the Pacific.

Mr. Chairman, let me start by first thanking you for your leadership in focusing U.S. attention to the Pacific, a region of growing geopolitical importance to the United States. We share your commitment and appreciate the opportunity to discuss our programs and strategies for strengthening our partnerships and cooperation with Pacific nations. And we are pleased to be here with our State and DOD colleagues to echo their concerns about the need for stronger links in the Pacific, to reaffirm bonds of friendship based on common history, experiences and democratic values.

From a development perspective, we know that nations in the Pacific are among the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of global climate change (GCC) as well as some of the least able to respond. We know these changes affect life and livelihoods in many countries in the Pacific, threatening catastrophic warming and resource-based instability.

In the Pacific, GCC threatens the very existence of some island-nations and is hence the top priority for this region in this century. Many Pacific islanders already experience the effects of sea-level rise, more frequent storms due to climate change, and other extreme climate events that can impact water, coastal and marine resources, and agriculture. To try to avert the worst case scenario results, USAID, in collaboration with the Department of State, is leading USG efforts to ensure that the least developed states in the Pacific region are better able to adapt to the changes in practical and life-saving ways as they grow their economies. The Obama Administration is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to minimize future impacts of climate change, but it will also be critical for all countries to adapt to unavoidable changes in climate conditions. To make sure we focus our efforts appropriately, USAID will engage governments and residents in setting priorities and designing programs to address critical climate-affected needs, such as water catchments, mangrove conservation, crop adjustments to salt intrusion and, possibly, land and migration impacts.

In this fiscal year (FY 2010), we have \$3 million for climate change adaptation work in the Pacific region and the State Department has an additional \$9 million that will be programmed in coordination with USAID. An additional \$9.5 million in USAID funds for Global Climate Change is part of our request for FY 2011. In New York this week, Secretary Clinton discussed USG assistance for Small Island Developing States worldwide, including the \$21.5 million in FY 2010 and requested FY 2011 funding. I met earlier this month with Director General Jimmie Rogers of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to review his ideas for advancing a shared effort on global climate change. Tomorrow, David Sheppard, Director of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) will be reviewing SPREP's new five year strategy with

our Global Climate Change team at USAID. We expect this to lead to a number of shared activities in the region.

USAID has also noted threats to health and prosperity represented by the very serious HIV/AIDS problem in Papua New Guinea (PNG). In recent years, USAID has been notably active there implementing a bilateral assistance program, valued at \$2.5 million per year, that focuses on reducing that country's HIV/AIDS prevalence rates. Papua New Guinea benefits from regionally funded programs to protect tropical forests. Both Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands participate in USAID and Department of State-funded Coral Triangle Initiative, a partnership to protect marine habitats supported with \$4 million in fiscal year 2009.

USAID also has been active in responding to natural disasters in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Fiji and is poised to do so in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Since 1995, USAID has implemented the Pacific Islands Disaster Program through its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, which aims to improve the disaster management ability of local and national disaster management agencies and individuals. The program helps them develop and adapt training materials and provides guidance on how to conduct disaster management courses. And, currently, USAID supports a fulltime officer in Majuro to provide disaster preparedness, recovery and reconstruction in the event that a disaster occurs in the RMI and FSM. As you know, USAID currently implements its programs and activities in the Pacific from our Regional Development Mission for Asia, located in Bangkok.

Looking forward, USAID currently has a senior officer traveling in the Pacific region for three months to lay the groundwork for expanding our

partnerships in the region to work on global climate change issues, and to examine opportunities to work with government and non-governmental organizations on health challenges in Papua New Guinea. The officer will examine effective and appropriate ways to support and manage our activities in the region and report his findings to USAID by the end of this calendar year.

How we approach our presence in the Pacific region will need to take into account the severely constrained budget environment confronting us today and, we expect, in the future. We will need to be highly selective and rigorous in making decisions. USAID remains committed to renewing strong partnerships in the Pacific region and to finding the most effective ways to develop and sustain these partnerships in light of the budget constraints faced by USAID, and all government agencies.

Our commitment to engage and intensify activities that address the significant challenges faced by nations in the Pacific region - from climate change and health - remains strong. We look forward to carrying out that commitment and to working with the Congress to ensure that our interests and those of the people of the Pacific region are well served.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Thank you, Dr. Young. At this time, I would like to defer to my good friend from New Jersey for his 5 minutes of questions.

Mr. SMITH. Chairman, thank you very much again for that courtesy. Secretary Campbell, thank you for your very strong words and your obvious empathy with the plight of the left-behind parents. It is refreshing and encouraging, to say the least.

I would just note for the record, Mr. Chairman, that several left-behind parents are here with us today, and one grandparent whose children are unlawfully detained in Japan, and that includes Patrick Braden, whose daughter Melissa was abducted; Commander Paul Toland, whose daughter Erika was abducted; Chris and Amy Savoie, Isaac and Rebecca; Captain Lake, Mary Victoria; Douglas Berg, Gunnar and Kaisuke; and Nancy Elias, who is a grandmother of Jane and Michael Elias. Michael Elias is a decorated veteran of Afghanistan. She is here as well. And I just want to say very briefly that none of these people live in my district, and I think it underscores the fact that so many of us are rallying behind them, most of them who do not have somebody from our own districts, because this could be any one of us. And once you meet—and I know you have that same feeling, Mr. Secretary. Once you meet one of these individuals and hear them tell their story—when Patrick Braden walked into my office after the David Goldman case got some visibility—and I was very involved with that—we sat down, and he told his story, and I was almost in tears because I have a daughter named Melissa. And you begin thinking, what if that were me. Except for the grace of God, there goes any one of us. And then he said, would you join us at the embassy of Japan for a very dignified protest, very silent. It was a prayerful protest. And out came a birthday cake for little Melissa, and we sang “Happy Birthday.” And we couldn’t even get a meeting with the ambassador. You know, we called, I tried, and, you know, frankly, it is not all that hard to meet with an ambassador. But there was this arm’s length approach that was being taken.

Again, Japan is a great friend, a great ally with whom we have so much in common. So it is bewildering, to say the least, how they are mistreating American children, 136 that we know of, in over 90 cases. You know, in the case of the Eliases, I met them at a rally for David Goldman. They felt so left behind. Here is a case where the wife—you know, the judge says, you can’t have—you know, surrender the passports. So she apparently goes to another consul, gets passports, and takes off with those two children. I mean, that is such a violation of all things diplomatic, and certainly international law and U.S. law, and I wish Japanese law.

So just a couple of very brief questions. Secretary Campbell, you have indicated that child abduction cases have been raised to first tier priority, and if you could speak to that, that would be helpful. Secondly, do you believe that pressing to resolve the cases with U.S. arrest warrants sidestep the battle that obviously is going on within the Government of Japan? Because obviously there is a debate going on. Our hope is that it comes down fourscore on the side of resolving these cases, and joining the international consensus.

I mean, the Hague Convention has been with us for decades. It would seem to me that it is about time, you know—and I say that

knowing—I work very closely with UNHCR, a former high rep, who is Japanese. She gets it with people who are separated. How is it that the Government of Japan doesn't get it with kidnaping or child abduction. At both the G8 meeting in Ontario as well as last week at the United Nations, did President Obama raise the issue with Prime Minister Kan? And if you can reveal anything that he said, it would be very, very helpful and encouraging. So did he raise it before, and did he raise it last week?

And finally, is there any thought being given of putting together some parents to meet with the foreign ministry people? You know, seeing is believing. You can't sit for 5 minutes with a left-behind parent without your heart just coming out of your chest for them. And again, and I can't stress this enough, child abduction is child abuse. We all know it. The evidence is compelling that when there is a child abduction, that boy or that girl or those siblings are severely hurt. The information on that couldn't be more clear. So if you could answer those questions, I would deeply appreciate it.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Thank you very much, Congressman. And I frankly had the same sense that you did, and the more I have been involved in this issue, the more I believe it is one that—really it is one of our first tasks at the State Department, is the protection of our citizens. And I believe that this is a group of people that have not received the support that they need to, either from our Government, but also from the Government of Japan. And so I am committed to this, and I will try to answer your questions as best I can.

It has been raised at very high levels. I am not going to go into great detail, but I will say the meetings that I am most familiar with are those with Secretary Clinton, and she has raised them very purposefully with her counterparts. I will say that the former minister of foreign affairs, Minister Okada, was a very strong supporter, and helped us enormously inside the Japanese Government. And I will say that the new government has a different attitude on these issues, and I think personally I see progress, but we need to see that progress both increase and move more rapidly over the course of the coming months.

One of our biggest problems has been an educational issue in Japan, frankly. I find that when I interact with colleagues and friends inside Japan, the lack of knowledge or sometimes the wrong views or not a very clear picture of this issue pervades. It is very much in our interest to try to reverse that, to increase the profile, and to humanize this problem. I think sometimes the left-behind parents are not well understood in Japan. Japan is a deeply compassionate society. And remember, the original marriages here were often as a consequence of a merger between our two cultures.

I want to make sure that Japanese colleagues and friends know more about this issue because I am convinced that once they do, they will have a similar sense that both you and I have. I think there are some common sensical steps that we can take. I also believe that we need to go beyond simply the Hague Convention. It is not clear how that would apply to previous cases, and I think we have to address those. I think we also have to address them urgently.

You have your experiences; I have mine. I met a father who had not seen his daughter for 16 years. And again, I don't know how you go on in some respects. So, yes, we owe it to them, and we have to do more. We have, as I said, put together a task force inside our U.S. Government that works on this, much more consequently than we had before. I was disappointed again, as I said, in my own performance and some of my own colleagues. We will not let that happen again, and we raise it at every opportunity with our Japanese interlocutors.

I am looking forward to including some high-level people in that group going forward. We will be discussing this with a new Japanese Foreign Minister next week in Tokyo. I will say at this juncture I would give this a little bit more time at the diplomatic level. I think that you are seeing some signs of movement. And I will just give you one example, if I could quickly, and I am sorry to go on so long, Congressman Smith.

One of the longest running issues between the United States and Japan has been the prisoner of war issue. The men who survived the Bataan death march and then worked as almost slave labor, frankly, in a number of Japanese factories during the latter part of the Second World War. It had been impossible to find a way forward on this, and I will just tell you, after some very good work by some young officers at the State Department, for the first time a group of prisoners of war now in the twilight of their lives, late 80s, went to Japan 2 weeks ago and received a formal apology from the minister of foreign affairs.

Mr. SMITH. My father was combat veteran in New Guinea, and saw some very terrible things. So he has passed on, but he would appreciate it. I do have to run and vote. It is actually on the resolution. We debated it yesterday; it is being voted on now. If you could answer, did Obama raise it?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Congressman, I think it would be best—we are encouraged not to speak directly about the private discussions between the President and other leaders. It is a matter of record because the Secretary in her outbrief has indicated that it was raised with Foreign Minister Okada. I think I will leave it at that, if I could. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you.

Mr. FALOMAVEGA. Thank you, Congressman Smith. I do have some follow-up questions for our witnesses, and I appreciate your patience. Hopefully, we can get this out of the way so you can return to your important work in your respective offices.

Secretary Campbell, you have given an overview of our policy toward the Pacific region. As you know, for the last 20 years, I have been a lonely witness crying in the forest to try to get Washington to pay a little more attention to the Pacific region. And I do want to say thank you again, for the record, to you and Secretary Clinton for the important decision that you made, after 15 years of USAID absence, that now that this is coming back as a reality.

I remember distinctly when we decided to remove USAID from the Pacific. It was because of the new East European countries that were coming in, and we needed more resources to get them settled, and our embassies established along with and our diplomatic relationships. I think there were about 15 new East European coun-

tries, including countries in Central Asia, as well as in Eastern Europe. So it was quite understandable; we know that.

Secretary Campbell, in your overview of the Pacific, in terms of the changes that have occurred, do you see a real danger of the United States losing its influence in this region if we don't pay more attention to the problems affecting the island nations?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Honestly, Mr. Chairman, I do, I do, and I am concerned by that. And I think it would be fair to say that several of the leaders last week or earlier this week in the sessions with Secretary Clinton spoke of travels far afield to the Middle East, other Asian capitals. They are being courted quite aggressively. It is not a secret. If you look at the voting records of groups of nations, no group of nations votes more with the United States than the Pacific Island nations historically, none. More than Europe, more than Latin America, more than Asia. And it is extremely important that we not take these islands for granted, diplomatically, politically, strategically.

And so I think benign neglect has its consequences. And power dynamics are changing in the Asia and Pacific region, and so I think that is a factor that comes to play here. However, we don't want to see an environment of, you know, seeing the Pacific as a chessboard. That is not the right way to think about the Asia Pacific region. We have strong historical, moral, and other reasons, health, economic, to be involved overall.

But the truth is, this is a group of nations that wants to be closer with the United States. They study in our universities. They serve in uniform in our armed forces. They play on our football teams, you know well, sir. I think with a remarkably modest investment, we can have enormous dividends. And so we are not asking here for dramatic changes. We are asking for some specific steps that can be taken that will have enormous dividends for the United States.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I appreciate that. One of the critical issues that now seems sometimes forgotten in terms of our overall foreign policy toward the region—I make particular reference to Micronesia. As you know, in the mid-1970s, the situation in Micronesia was critical. So we took the initiative in negotiating these compact of free associations with these three distinct Micronesian entities, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Immediately following World War II, what we did was just simply told the United Nations that they were a strategic trust as far as the United States was concerned. And they became our little back yard, as we told the United Nations and the Soviet Union, "Hands off." Uncle Sam is putting its imprint here, and that we are to have this special relationship with these island entities in Micronesia.

At the time, when we organized the Congress of Micronesia and all these other things, we were accused by the former Soviet Union of colonialism. But in the process, we then turned to negotiating successfully these compacts of free association. And part of the relationship, in terms of the negotiation process, was that these island nations were willing to be part of our overall defense against

potential enemies or adversaries that we might have to face in the future.

You know we got kicked out of Subic Bay and Clark Air Force Base on the Philippines, and so it became more critical than ever that Micronesia, especially Guam, as it currently is, one of our strongest military presences on that island. But Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia were also part of that equation. I know that there has been a lot of media, and even by some of our friends in the administration from previous administrations looking at saying that we are giving a lot of money to these compact republics, and to the point where we become a little micromanaging in terms of some of the things that these island countries really need.

The point I wanted to make is that we sometimes have conveyed the view that we must administer their programs, that we need to look into every little crevice to figure out the problems that they have. And then we expect to make decisions on their behalf. I am concerned about that.

I do want to thank you, Secretary Campbell, for your leadership in working through the negotiations with our friends from the Republic of Palau, as we discussed in Vanuatu. Of course, the President and members of his delegation brought to my attention some of their concerns about the negotiations. I just wanted to share with you some of these concerns that my friends in Palau have conveyed to me, that inflation adjustment in the compacts is currently in place for the Marshalls and also for FSM, but it is totally absent for Palau.

I would deeply appreciate if you could revisit the issue of inflation adjustment. If it is good for the Marshalls and FSM, I don't understand why it would not be good also for Palau to have a similar type of convention or assistance. Also, on the question of the postal service programs that are currently being provided for Palau, I would really appreciate your review again of the issue. Perhaps we can re-explore that issue with our friends from the Republic of Palau.

There is also the question of periodic audits, again as a service that our Government provides for the Marshalls and the FSM, but not for Palau. I think the problem we have here, Mr. Secretary, is if it is good for FSM and the Marshalls, why shouldn't it be also good for Palau? And I am not suggesting that Palau has got 50 million people. I mean, there are probably less than 20,000 people there. And I don't think a periodic audit is going to be so complicated a service that perhaps you can work in making improvements on that.

On the issue of the Marshall Islands, I believe that our friends in the Department of Defense need to look at the issue of OTEC. I think OTEC has been pursued for a good number of years by our friends from the Marshall Islands. We have already launched a couple of OTEC power generation systems from the ocean. As I had discussed this issue with some of our friends from the Marshalls, it is a very expensive technology.

But I believe we are doing this in Diego Garcia now. The military is doing this, and if it was possible to do it in Diego Garcia, maybe Mr. Mitchell can help me with this. Maybe something similar could

also be done in Kwajalein, where some 12,000 people live in Ebeye, probably the most densely populated place on this planet. I would appreciate a comment from Mr. Mitchell concerning the OTEC program. Is that really a serious issue that our friends in the Defense Department can pursue?

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that. The Department of the Navy, I know, is very, very serious on this issue. They are—they view the issue of energy security as essential to national security, particularly in the island states, recognizing the cost prohibitiveness of other sources of energy, the normal sources of oil and such. So they are doing intense investigation into the commercial viability of this ocean thermal technology.

They have found in fact that in Diego Garcia, it was not such, and they have terminated that project in Diego Garcia. What they are looking to do is have a demonstration project in Pearl Harbor by 2017. So they are—this is something I think you can talk to the Navy directly about. I would sort of defer to them on this. They are, though, very seriously looking at it, but just have found that the cost and the commercial viability in the near-term simply isn't there.

Mr. FALCOMA. As I had mentioned, I did visit the OTEC pilot program in Kona, on the big island, where they draw cold water from 3,000 to 4,000 feet. And the benefit derived from the OTEC technology is that it not only produces water, but also provides electricity. These are two components that are critically needed in a place like the Marshall Islands, where they have no mountains, and no mountains, no moisture, and no moisture, no rain, and so has a limited amount of water in their capacity. And their hope is that OTEC will provide these very important resources, if OTEC technology can be done.

As I have suggested to them, it is a very expensive technology, not only to maintain, but even to have around. But that being the deal with the Department of the Navy, we will have to pursue that continually.

Dr. Young, again I thanked Secretary Clinton and Secretary Campbell for sharing with us the Secretary's decision. Maybe you can help me even with something further. Is USAID still independent from the State Department in its operation? Because it always seems to be a running battle for all the years that I have known that our foreign policy stays with the State Department, and that our USAID assistance programs is somewhat of an independent semi-independent agency where it doesn't necessarily follow the politics. Can you enlighten me on this? Are you still independent or semi-independent from State and Secretary Clinton's authority?

Mr. YOUNG. It is a difficult question for me to answer, Mr. Chairman. I am actually perhaps not the best person to direct this question to. The administrator of USAID does report to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State is in charge of all U.S. foreign policy. And Administrator Shaw is her chief advisor on issues involving development.

Mr. FALCOMA. You say chief advisor, but not chief administrator.

Mr. YOUNG. He administers the USAID program, sir, yes. He does the USAID program. But—

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. So who does he take orders from?

Mr. YOUNG. We all take orders from the President, Mr. Chairman. But he works under the guidance and direction of the Secretary of States.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Guidance and direction?

Mr. YOUNG. Of the Secretary of State. But he also provides recommendations to the Secretary of State on the best alternatives and options for pursuing the President's initiatives in development, particularly as laid out in the President's recent Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) on global development that was released last—

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. So you say that the administrator of USAID is entitled to give his own opinion directly to the President?

Mr. YOUNG. Not necessarily, sir. He does talk to the President, sir, as does the Secretary. But he works in close cooperation and close consultation with the Secretary.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I am a little concerned, Dr. Young, because I have been thinking about your statement, every word, every phrase.

Mr. YOUNG. I know you have.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Every comma. And I noticed that you said, we are going to have a presence in the Pacific, but not necessarily offices, even though we have said publicly—

Mr. YOUNG. Right.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA [continuing]. We are going to have offices in Port Moresby and Suva. Can you enlighten us as to exactly what USAID is going to do?

Mr. YOUNG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would. As you know, in the congressional budget justification for Fiscal Year 2011, USAID proposed to open an office in the South Pacific, presumably in Suva. That proposal is in our Fiscal Year 2011 request to Congress. The nature and the timing of it is going to depend on the appropriation that USAID receives. We are already enhancing our engagement in the South Pacific and in the Pacific region, as I mentioned in my testimony. We have a senior foreign service officer spending 3 months there traveling and visiting each of the partner countries that we are proposing to do programming with, particularly in the area of global climate change, meeting with governments, with regional organizations, and with private sector partners. He will be returning shortly after Thanksgiving, and we expect a report from him by the end of the year.

We expect that he will be able to give us a lot more detail about what is the best approach to enhance our engagement consistent with our commitment to engage in a more robust set of activities in the Pacific. How we do that right is under intense discussion within USAID. We are committed to an enhanced presence. I think we have already demonstrated that through this gentleman's trip. But the exact timing and the nature is going to depend on the appropriation we receive.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Dr. Young, with all due respect, our friends, the People's Republic of China, have already announced \$600 million in assistance programs for these island nations, \$600 million in soft loans, grants, assistance, whatever it is, and we are diddling

over whether or not we should have USAID conduct a study for 3 months? I could have told the gentleman. He didn't even have to go to the Pacific. Tell me. I have been sitting here for 20 years babbling my mouth off asking where is USAID when it is so critically needed for these island countries?

So we are going to study and study and study, continuing studying the programs until when? How long is this going to be?

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Chairman, his mission goes beyond studying. It is to frame some of the programs that we will actually implement beginning in 2011. He needs to come back, and should come back, with specific designs that he has come up with in consultation with the partner governments and regional organizations. And I am discussing some of those with Mr. Rogers and the gentleman that will be coming tomorrow from SPREP, so that we can put the flesh on these bones and get the programs started in 2011.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I might suggest, Mr. Young, the bones are already there. You just completed a \$50 million embassy, a new embassy, in Suva, Fiji. So you don't need to build another building, if that is what you are concerned about. You can even house two or three staffers right now in that huge embassy that we have in Suva. I am very concerned because when this announcement was made by Secretary Clinton, I would say that it was received with a positive response by Pacific Island countries. But now, and with all due respect—this is nothing personally against you—I am hearing a different tone. You are saying, “Well, yes, we are going to be present there, but we don't know how much presence we are going to have.”

My concern, Dr. Young, is that we don't need to study this. We know the problems there. You could have asked Secretary Campbell. You could have asked me. You could have asked DoD. What are the needs of these island nations? We don't need to study it again. I can tell you right now without even having to talk to your friend that has taken 3 months to do this study.

Now, may I ask you, this friend of USAID who is doing this 3-month study, is he familiar with the Pacific? Has he worked on Pacific issues?

Mr. YOUNG. I believe he served very briefly in the Pacific, but this would have been back when we still had an officer there through the mid '90s.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. So in other words, he is getting on-the-job training himself.

Mr. YOUNG. He is also a very professional officer, Mr. Chairman, who has been a mission director in several other countries and knows how to frame and develop programs.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. What is your best recommendation in terms of how much money USAID plans to put into these two offices, both in Port Moresby and Suva, I assume?

Mr. YOUNG. The request to Congress for Fiscal Year 2011, Mr. Chairman, is \$12 million, \$9.5 million, or approximately \$9 million, for climate change and adaptation, \$2 million to \$2.5 million for HIV/AIDS, and \$1 million for disaster—

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. So a \$58-billion proposed budget for the State Department, and only how much for USAID to do its programs?

Mr. YOUNG. Over a 2-year period, as the Secretary stated, approximately \$21.5 million; for Fiscal Year 2011, it is approximately \$12 million, but that is from USAID itself.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I am not trying to suggest that we compete with the resources that China is putting in to help the Pacific Island countries. But you know, Mr. Young, with all due respect, we are going to be the laughingstock of the Pacific. It is a joke.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Chairman, I take your point strongly. We are doing our best to ramp up as quickly as possible, within the budget constraints that we face, and all of us will face in the government. I agree with your premise, and I think my statement makes that clear. I will definitely take your message back to the agency as we continue our internal deliberations.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Please, Dr. Young. A \$900-million embassy that we just built in Baghdad, and in return, we are just going to give \$12 million to help these island countries. I am not a mathematician, Dr. Young, but I sincerely hope that our friends in USAID are going to be a little more serious about this issue. Maybe we never should have announced that we were going to the Pacific. Of course, I have been screaming bloody murder about this issue for the last 20 years.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Fifteen years since we left, maybe that might be a better way of saying it. Well, I am very concerned. I realize that with the budget cutbacks in the \$3.8 trillion proposed budget, it is a matter of priorities. We are trying to consider seriously where we need to cut, and what essential services.

Maybe Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Campbell can help me on this. I just don't see the logic in all of this that we have announced that USAID is coming, but now we call it a presence, without necessarily following up seriously with having people in place to do the programs.

Care to comment on that, Mr. Mitchell? Do we need a USAID presence in the Pacific? Maybe you don't. Maybe Dr. Campbell may have a different view, too, on this.

Mr. MITCHELL. To be honest, I should probably defer on that. We certainly need a presence on the military side and the defense side.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Let me give another—

Mr. MITCHELL. A very comprehensive—

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Let me give you a perspective. I remember when we were negotiating these Micronesian compacts. And with all due respect, when the question of Micronesia was considered, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger comes up with a statement concerning Micronesia over whether it really is in our interest. Do you know what he said? There are only 90,000 people. Who gives a damn?

If that is the attitude that we continue to have by our Government leaders toward these Pacific Island countries and their needs, then is it any wonder then they say, well, maybe we need to seek elsewhere if the benevolence of this great country, America, just doesn't seem to have sufficient resources to assist us? Secretary Campbell, do you care to comment on that?

Mr. CAMPBELL. First of all, thank you for your commitment and passion on this issue, if I could, Mr. Chairman. Let me say at our

session last week—sorry again, earlier this week with Secretary Clinton, every one of the leaders and Foreign Ministers and others raised the issue of the USAID commitment. And it was frankly very welcome. I was very pleased.

I will tell you that Dr. Young is extremely committed to the Asia and Pacific region. I believe he is taking very careful notes. I think he has heard—I think we have heard very clearly your very strong views on this. And I think we will take this back, and I look forward to reporting back to you very, very soon on the direction ahead. I think that is fair, isn't it?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, absolutely.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Gentlemen, please don't take this as a personal attack on your leadership and service. I realize that we must have priorities in how we are going to cut the pie, and competing interests come from all different parts of the world. And it is not an easy task, I realize that. But I am at a loss over whether USAID is actually going to be giving any form of assistance to these island countries.

What would be your view if we are going to end up spending another year-and-a-half still studying the situation, Dr. Young?

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Chairman, I don't see us taking another year-and-a-half to study the situation. I expect the programs will be obligated and commitment and people on the ground working during Fiscal Year 2011. This gentleman's efforts in the field right now are to put concrete programs together that can be either contracted out or grants or assistance provided so that we can move resources into place where they need to be moved.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Can you share with us examples of the kind of programs that USAID currently provides?

Mr. YOUNG. From the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriation, we do not have any programs yet operating on the ground, except for the HIV/AIDS program.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. No, no. What I mean is a laundry list of programs that USAID currently engages in in dealing with different regions. Let us take Asia as an example. I am sure USAID has a large presence there.

Mr. YOUNG. Oh, absolutely, sir. We have missions in 13 countries, but we also oversee programs in 12 other countries where we don't have presence. I can provide you complete digests and lists for the record, Mr. Chairman.

[The information referred to follows:]

Taken Question

Dr. Frank Young
 Sept. 29, 2010
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RENEWED ENGAGEMENT: U.S. POLICY TOWARD PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS

Please see below a list of USAID programs in East Asia countries.

Country	Program Area	Key Programs	FY 2010
Cambodia			
	Peace and Security	Promote Cambodian participation in international and regional security forums and UN peacekeeping.	1,350
	Governing Justly and Democratically	Support accountability, transparency and access to information for elected leaders at all levels.	14,650
	Investing in People - Health	Link health services to improved quality and governance; build planning and budgeting skills of service providers.	34,500
	Investing in People - Education	Increase access to quality basic education for rural populations.	1,556
	Economic Growth	Improve agricultural technology and management, productivity, competitiveness, and access to markets	16,444
Indonesia			
	Peace and Security	Export Control and Related Border Security Program establishes strategic trade control systems.	300
	Governing Justly and Democratically	Support efforts of Attorney General's Office with its Anticorruption and Counterterrorism Task Forces.	37,425
	Investing in People - Health	Reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates.	52,023
	Investing in People - Education	Decentralized Basic Education (DBE) builds institutional capacity to disseminate education best practices.	47,516
	Economic Growth	Support for the Ministry of Finance to train Indonesian staff in economic policy analysis.	43,436
Mongolia			
			7,600
Philippines			
	Governing Justly and Democratically	Enhance Mongolia's capacity for international peace support operations.	1,000
	Economic Growth	Provide technical support to Energy Regulatory Authority and sector reform.	6,500
Philippines			
	Peace and Security	Improve capacity of civilian law enforcement agencies to respond to terrorism.	1,450
	Governing Justly and Democratically	Promote awareness of human rights and effective investigation and prosecution of cases.	12,200
	Investing in People - Health	Programs increase access to clean water/sanitation; improve water utility and water supply systems.	34,470
	Investing in People - Education	Renewable energy program provides electricity to schools in off-grid areas, and water and sanitation activities in schools.	12,900
	Economic Growth	Support Philippine government's efforts to undertake economic reforms in tax administration and fiscal transparency.	42,510
Timor-Leste			
	Peace and Security	Train the Armed Forces of Timor-Leste and the National Police of Timor-Leste to increase their professionalism.	500
	Governing Justly and Democratically	Strengthen personnel management for judges, and public defenders and improve administration of justice.	993
	Investing in People - Health	Family planning/reproductive health, and water supply/sanitation and hygiene.	5,371
	Investing in People - Education	Scholarships to Timorese youth for university study in the U.S.	2,000
	Economic Growth	Support growers' adoption of improved technologies and strengthen basic agribusiness skills.	10,389
Vietnam			
	Peace and Security	Export Control and Related Border Security program assists Vietnam to enhance strategic trade control systems to prevent the spread of WMD.	418
	Governing Justly and Democratically	STAR and Vietnam Competitiveness Initiatives support development of relevant laws and regulations.	6,800
	Investing in People - Health	Supporting the GVN's efforts to restructure the country's education system.	94,978
	Investing in People - Education	Protection for Vulnerable Populations Area program by increasing access to education, health care and employment.	1,400
	Economic Growth	Promote importance of fiscal policy in economic policy making.	11,882

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Country	Program Area	Key Programs	FY 2010
Regional Development Mission for Asia			58,540
	Peace and Security	Anti-trafficking law enforcement and government involvement	1,300
	Investing in People - Health	Regional institutions and networks reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and other infectious diseases.	21,490
	Economic Growth	Define constraints to enhanced food security and identify priority actions for alleviation.	35,850
Burma			35,600
	Governing Justly and Democratically	Media capacity-building program to improve internal and external communication in Burma.	9,500
	Investing in People - Health	Community outreach HIV/AIDS prevention	2,100
	Investing in People - Education	Supporting schools through parent-teacher organizations, teacher networks and basic education programs for displaced Burmese	3,300
	Humanitarian Assistance	Community-based recovery, livelihood rehabilitation, other humanitarian assistance in cyclone-affected and food insecure areas	23,700
China			25,400
	Governing Justly and Democratically	Enhance rule of law by supporting institutions and NGOs.	6,000
	Investing in People - Health	Health program work with the government and NGOs to address HIV/AIDS, Avian Influenza, Malaria and Tuberculosis and safe water and sanitation.	7,000
	Investing in People - Education	Business development and small and medium enterprise growth for ethnic Tibetans.	4,200
	Economic Growth	Develop small businesses, business associations, eco-tourism enterprises, and herder cooperatives.	9,200
Laos			1,513
	Investing in People - Health	Community outreach to promote HIV/AIDS prevention and behavior change.	1,000
	Economic Growth	Scale up Laos government efforts to implement reforms with the goal of accession to the WTO.	513
Marshall Islands			500
	Humanitarian Assistance	Reduce response time in an emergency by pre-positioning emergency equipment in RMI.	500
Federated States			500

3

Country	Program Area	Key Programs	FY 2010
of Micronesia			
	Humanitarian Assistance	Reduce response time in an emergency by pre-positioning emergency equipment in FSM.	500
Papua New Guinea			2,500
	Investing in People - Health	HIV/AIDS program supports the development of a Continuum of Prevention to Care to Treatment Program.	2,500
Thailand			10,151
	Peace and Security	Training in "best practices" for licensing, trade-control enforcement, industry outreach.	4,751
	Governing Justly and Democratically	Program links civic leaders, civil society, academics and the media and independent government agencies that provide oversight of the enforcement of law and policy.	3,900
	Investing in People - Health	Assisting Thailand in addressing its HIV/AIDS epidemic.	1,500

4

Please see below a list of USAID Programs in South and Central Asia

Central Asia Regional			23,400
Peace and Security	Improve capacity of civilian law enforcement agencies to respond to terrorism.		750
Governing Justly and Democratically	Promote awareness of human rights and effective investigation and prosecution of cases.		1,752
Investing in People - Education	Renewable energy program provides electricity to schools in off-grid areas, and water and sanitation activities in schools.		800
Investing in People-Health	Develop regional cooperation on health sector reform to improve health service delivery for each country in the region.		12,850
Economic Growth	Collaborate with U.S. Trade and Development Agency to facilitate electricity trade and investment between South and Central Asia; address regional environmental concerns.		7,248
Kazakhstan			13,200
Peace and Security	Focus on stabilization operations, security sector reform, and activities to combat terrorism and the proliferation of WMD.		2,081
Governing Justly and Democratically	Help build a democratic culture through legal support to civil society, development of independent media, capacity-building of political parties, and fostering respect for human rights.		4,189
Investing in People - Health	Improve cost-effective primary health care services; outreach to vulnerable groups to prevent and control infectious diseases; infection prevention in health facilities.		4,600
Economic Growth	Partner with the GoK to develop regional energy markets and promote global energy security and private sector competitiveness; reform trade and investment enabling environment.		2,330
Kyrgyzstan			49,675
Peace and Security	Focus on security sector reform, counter-narcotics efforts, and cooperative activities to combat proliferation of WMD.		1,138
Governing Justly and Democratically	Promote good governance at local and national levels through training parliamentarians and political parties; increase access to objective information; and improve legal regulatory environment for engagement.		9,914
Investing in People – Health	Reform of primary health care services for vulnerable groups to prevent and control infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and TB.		5,051
Investing in People – Education	Improve access to basic education by improving training and student assessment, integrating student-centered, skills-based teaching into curricula, and establishing student loan programs.		2,300
Economic Growth	Promote broad-based economic growth in water, agriculture, and energy		28,072
Humanitarian Assistance	through macroeconomic policy reforms related to finance, trade, land, and fiscal improvements; improve the environment for business growth. Meet the emergency needs of affected and displaced populations; improve food security and address nutrition needs; identify areas for governmental services improvement.		1,200
Maldives			1,000
Economic Growth	Conduct climate change vulnerability analysis with the government of Maldives to address water resource management and enhance resiliency.		1,000
Tajikistan			44,474
Peace and Security	Focus on counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics efforts, border management, security sector reform, and combating proliferation of WMD.		6,816
Governing Justly and Democratically	Promote accountable local governance; increase quality of and access to information; and improve the legal enabling environment for media and civil society.		8,001
Investing in People – Health	Provide technical assistance to improve the capacity of health systems to meet the needs of vulnerable populations; increase access to quality HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis care; and help secure potable drinking water.		8,974
Investing in People - Education	Reform primary and secondary education through interactive teaching, addressing teacher shortages; improve student assessment and school management; support vocational programs for Afghan learners.		1,004
Economic Growth	Promote liberalization in regional trading environment through competitiveness and investment to help ensure domestic conditions for Tajikistan's accession to the WTO.		18,379
Humanitarian Assistance	Meet basic food security needs through the provision of micro-loans, basic necessities, and training to vulnerable populations.		1,300
Turkmenistan			13,175
Peace and Security	Improve country's control over its borders with Iran and Afghanistan; focus on illicit trafficking of narcotics and WMD.		597
Governing Justly and Democratically	Support the development of local civil society; strengthen the legal environment for media and civil society organizations; improve access to objective media via innovative satellite broadcast channel.		5,860
Investing in People – Health	Improve capacity of health care system with a focus on maternal and child care; prevent and control infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, avian flu).		2,750
Investing in People – Education	Advise on curriculum development; support teacher training; improve quality of student assessment; provide educational policy guidance.		820
Economic Growth	Provide technical assistance towards a diverse, competitive market-based economy; stimulate foreign investment.		3,148
Uzbekistan			11,240

5

6

Peace and Security	Prevent trafficking in persons and improve care for victims by working with the GOU to strengthen non-governmental support organizations.	780
Governing Justly and Democratically	Develop local capacity to protect human rights and to mainstream good governance into local programs; foster the growth of civic culture.	3,481
Investing in People – Health	Support the modernization of the public health system and its ability to assist vulnerable groups and prevent HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.	4,875
Investing in People – Education	Support modest interventions to work with the disabled and provide English language training.	300
Economic Growth	Support agricultural competitiveness activities to improve production, processing, marketing, and distribution skills of farmers; support efforts to upgrade national energy planning and analysis system.	1,404
Humanitarian Assistance	Ensure that regional energy needs are met and enhance food security among vulnerable populations (disabled children and TB patients.)	400
India		118,460
Investing in People- Health	Integrate health services and nutrition to improve the survival of children and their mothers; stem global disease threats (HIV/AIDS, polio and TB).	88,450
Investing in People- Education	Support for quality basic education to millions of disadvantaged children and adults through technology, modern pedagogy and literacy training, especially for women.	5,000
Economic Growth	Improve Indian agricultural productivity; raise agricultural growth rates (also private sector and Government of India resources).	25,000
Bangladesh		119,471
Peace and Security	Capacity building of law enforcement agencies to implement anti-trafficking laws and manage TIP cases more efficiently.	1,100
Governing Justly and Democratically	Support the country's transition to a fully functional democracy by strengthening key democratic practices and institutions.	22,912
Investing in People – vulnerable populations	Capacity building of, and alliances between, public, NGOs, and private sector organizations so that low cost health services are available for the poor and indigenous organizations can sustainably provide health services.	1,400
Investing in People- Health	Support nutrition, family planning, maternal and child health, and infectious disease prevention and treatment (HIV/AIDS and TB)	53,200
Investing in People - Education	Support Sesame Street Bangladesh; continue to support early learning initiatives.	5,000
Economic Growth	Reduce poverty by removing barriers to growth in sectors of the economy that have the greatest impact on the poor.	34,359
Humanitarian Assistance	Target economically disadvantaged communities: raising homesteads, building flood barriers; constructing disaster shelters and embankments; and developing early warning systems.	1,500
Sri Lanka		9,500
Peace and Security	Support indigenous civil society organizations' capabilities to mitigate and reconcile conflicts at local level.	1,500
Governing Justly and Democratically	Support legal aid organizations and training of human rights advocates, and the increased capacity of municipal government.	3,710
Economic Growth	Support livelihood development and workforce readiness, particularly among youth; loan guarantees for agribusiness; and private sector-led, value chains for products from conflict-affected areas.	4,690
Nepal		54,000
Peace and Security	Support protection for victims of trafficking and improve judiciary and law enforcement; support community level institutions and structures engaged in conflict resolution.	3,000
Governing Justly and Democratically	Support the legislative drafting capacity of parliament and improve representation of constituents; train legislators to utilize consensus-building practices in drafting of new constitution.	3,000
Investing in People – Health	Assist the Government of Nepal (GoN) to deliver sustainable basic health services to its people, a priority of the new government.	41,667
Investing in People - Education	Expand the national early childhood development program to ensure disadvantaged children are enrolled in school.	1,500
Economic Growth	Assist the GoN in tax reforms, compliance with WTO requirements and improving customs; increase agricultural productivity and analysis of select value chains; update the National Nutrition Action Plan with the GoN.	19,500

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Please.

Mr. YOUNG. I don't have that with me.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Please, without objection, sir, that will be provided for—

Mr. CAMPBELL. Can I ask you one thing, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Please.

Mr. CAMPBELL. One of the things that we have heard very clearly from you and others—and I think the truth is that we have raised some expectations here, and we have heard the applause. And now it is going to be very important that the United States takes steps to ensure that there isn't a letdown. And there have been a lot of letdowns in the Pacific, and I think Dr. Young and I and Mr. Mitchell hear very clearly your views and the views of others on this, and we commit to work closely with you to make sure that we have a way forward that follows through on the kinds of things the United States has already announced.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I might also add, Dr. Campbell, that in terms of raising expectations, a gentleman by the name of Barack Obama was born in the Pacific. He was born in the state of Hawaii. Every Pacific Islander somehow has a sense of affinity with him saying, "Hey, he is one of us. He was born in the Pacific." You know what I also say? He is the first President of the United States who at least knows where the Pacific Ocean is. And I say this was somewhat of a satire, to the extent that he literally was born and raised in Hawaii, despite all the birthers that go around saying that he was born either in Kenya or in Indonesia. I remember distinctly 2 years ago, there was a national blog saying that I was a special agent of Barack Obama who went to Indonesia, which I did; attended the school that he went to; which I did; and that my mission from Barack Obama was to make sure there was no record whatsoever indicating that he was born in Indonesia. And I said, wow, that is one way to make yourself famous, by being an agent of Barack Obama to get rid of any records suggesting that he was born in Indonesia. Of course, Kenya also seems to be the other place they are always coming up with.

I sincerely hope that given his Pacific experience of being born and raised on an island community that he does have a sense of appreciation for what island people go through. I don't want to compare the state of Hawaii with the issues affecting or confronting a lot of the Pacific Island nations because those nations don't have the resources readily available to our friends in the state of Hawaii.

Dr. Campbell, on the Chinese presence in the Pacific. I remember a couple of years ago, one of the Assistant Secretaries of State testified before my subcommittee, and he had expressed very serious concerns about the checkbook diplomacy that China and Taiwan were conducting throughout the Pacific. And I said, wait a minute. What about the billions of dollars in cash that we ended up giving to the Iraqis that we could not even account for? So we are accusing China and Taiwan of checkbook diplomacy. What about cash diplomacy where we cannot even account for what we did in Iraq?

My concern is that China is also a Pacific nation. And these countries work closely with China because of China's willingness to give the kind of resources and assistance that these countries need.

And the unfortunate situation is that the question comes back to me as someone representing our national Government, over what the United States is doing about this.

Well, I must say that it is somewhat embarrassing that we haven't been doing very much. And I deeply appreciate, Dr. Campbell, your assessment in saying that we have not been doing very much. And I think also in line with it has always been our conventional policy to lean and depend almost entirely on whatever New Zealand and Australia tell us what to do because then we depend on New Zealand and Australia and their resources to give whatever foreign assistance programs that they can give. And I suppose that also represents our form of giving or giving assistance, which I think our island leaders are a lot more astute in understanding what is really going on here.

And I don't want to put China and these island countries as a yo-yo, making it a political football as to who is going to be the higher bidder in giving assistance to these countries. I don't think that is what the island leaders want themselves. But the fact of the matter is, if we are not there, then you give them little choice but to deal with the realities of who they need to deal with, just as it is true with many of our friends and countries in Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, and Central Asia. If they don't see any presence or any seriousness of commitment coming from our own Government, then they will have to make decisions accordingly in dealing with China.

Now, one of the ironies, Dr. Campbell, is that while there seems to be some sense of concern from our friends in Australia, telling these island countries to be careful of China, and yet they had a free trade agreement with China exporting billions of dollars in minerals and all of that. It kind of makes the island leaders say, "Are we that stupid, seeing what you guys are really trying to do here?"

I wanted just to share that with you, the feedback I get from some of our island leaders in meeting with them. Of course, they are not going to come out openly and tell you these things, Dr. Campbell. But I just want to pass them along. I am just the messenger. I think we honestly really do need to do a better job than what we have been. And again, Dr. Young, I am not trying to beat up on you. But, please, I just wanted to get better assurances that we are not just going to have presence in these island countries, but we are going to be there, lock, stock, and barrel, with whatever assistance that is needed.

Now, is it staffing that you are having problems with? Let me know. I will be happy to make recommendations of some excellent people who are not necessarily U.S. citizens who can help us. The secretary of the Pacific Commission has done an excellent job in identifying so many of the various programs and issues that these island countries are confronted with so seriously, not just climate change. My gosh, not just climate change.

The problem of our fisheries and the tuna industry alone, which my own little territory is totally impacted by. Our expertise and the problems of seabed minerals. We are the only country that has not signed on to allow the Sea Convention. I remember a couple of years ago, I think a Norwegian firm was contracted by the Cook

Islands government to conduct a survey of what is contained on the seabeds of some 3 million square miles of EEZ zone belonging to the Cook Islands. And as a result of that survey, they found out there is approximately at least over \$200 billion worth of manganese nodules contained in the seabeds of the Cook Islands, whose population is less than 20,000 people. I don't know if you are getting my message here, Dr. Young. Don't look at numbers to think that that is the basis of how we are going to deal with these island countries. If 31 percent of the entire earth's surface is contained among these 15 island countries, I think we ought to pay a lot more attention to them. Just looking at the population numbers, Papua New Guinea with 7 million, and then the populations are so spotty, I realize, that they don't have the numbers as far as people. But they are human beings nevertheless. And I just think what a tragedy it would be, that with all the tremendous amount of resources, the technology and knowledge in our universities and colleges, that if we are able to host some 690,000 foreign students attending American colleges and universities, you would think it might be possible USAID could do the same in getting more Pacific Island students to attend our colleges and universities.

I have always been very curious as to why the Fulbright Scholarship program has not been very successful to the extent that we are not giving enough opportunities to those island students who could get better training than they are getting now.

Gentlemen, I know I have talked a lot. But I just wanted to share those concerns with you. Assuming I get reelected in November, you are going to see my ugly face again here in this podium. I don't know what is going to happen come November, but I do want very much to thank the three of you for being here. Dr. Campbell, I do want to thank you. We just held a hearing about 2 weeks ago on West Papua. And please convey that message also to Secretary Clinton that we just sent a petition letter to the White House, to President Obama, and it was signed by 50 Members of Congress expressing our very serious concerns about not only human rights violations, but the lack of real attention by the Indonesian Government toward giving special autonomy or more autonomy to some 2.2 million West Papuans. A sad, sad commentary not only of our own involvement, but complicity with the United Nations that these people were never given the opportunity for self-determination, as it was given to the people of East Timor a couple of years ago.

I want to share that concern with you, Secretary Campbell. I sincerely hope that we will continue the dialogue. Again, thank you for your interest in wanting to engage and to dialogue the interim government leaders, Prime Minister Bainimarama and his people. I know there have been some serious doubts expressed about the upcoming elections of 2014. Again, just in good faith and absolute confidence that we will hold the election. And if not, we will cross that bridge.

I just cannot see how any other way can justify otherwise that we don't do these reforms and all of this, and I was there personally to see Prime Minister Bainimarama, and I believe he is very earnest and sincere in what he is trying to do in meeting those

goals and having that national election come 2014. If I live that long, I would like to see that.

But again, gentlemen, I want to thank you for your patience, and I sincerely hope that we will continue this dialogue and see what comes next after the elections. Thank you very much, gentlemen. The hearing is over.

[Whereupon, at 3:58 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING RECORD

SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-0128

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (D-AS), Chairman

September 28, 2010

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN hearing of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, to be held in **Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building** (and available live, via the **WEBCAST link on the Committee website at <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>**):

DATE: Wednesday, September 29, 2010

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Renewed Engagement: U.S. Policy Toward Pacific Island Nations

WITNESSES: The Honorable Kurt M. Campbell
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Mr. Derek J. Mitchell
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Asian and Pacific Security Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense

Frank Young, Ph.D.
Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Asia
United States Agency for International Development

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HEARING MINUTES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC
AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

Day: Wednesday
Date: September 29, 2010
Room: 2172 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Start Time: 2:06 p.m.
End Time: 3:58 p.m.

Recesses:

Presiding Member(s): Chairman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega

CHECK ALL OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY:

Open Session X
Executive (closed) Session
Televised X
Electronically Recorded (taped) X
Stenographic Record X

TITLE OF BRIEFING: "Renewed Engagement: U.S. Policy Toward Pacific Island Nations"

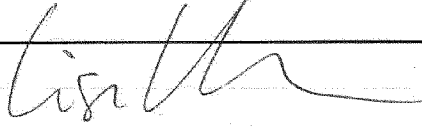
COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ranking Member Manzullo, Rep. Flake

NONCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Christopher Smith (N.J.)

BRIEFERS: Same as meeting notice attached? Yes X No (If "no", please list below and include title, agency, department, or organization.)

ACCOMPANYING BRIEFERS: (Include title, agency, department, or organization, and which witness the person accompanied)

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: (List any statements submitted for the record)
Chairman Faleomavaega, Rep. Watson, Assistant Secretary Campbell (witness), Mr. Mitchell (witness), Dr. Young (witness)


 Lisa Williams
Staff Director

**Statement
Congresswoman Diane E. Watson
Subcommittee on Asia and Global Environment
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Wednesday, September 29, 2010
2172 Rayburn House Office Building
2:00 p.m.**

“Renewed Engagement: U.S. Policy Toward Pacific Island Nations?”

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, and thank you for holding this timely hearing on U.S. policy toward Pacific Island Nations. As a former Ambassador to this region, this issue is very close to my heart. My years in Micronesia taught me the importance of the people and the culture and for them, I shall always be an ardent advocate.

I recognize the importance of the friendship we share with many of these nations, but am also aware of the many outstanding issues in the region. The Kwajalein lease extension, the situation in Fiji, the tuna treaty, an increasing poverty rate, the effects of the global economic downturn, and continued needs of the Marshall Islands. In addition, the negative effects of climate change will continue to hinder the fragile ecosystems, which in turn affect both the global community and local population.

We have a long history with these island nations, from nuclear testing on the Marshall Islands to the continued military base in Guam. However, we have not paid our friends in the South Pacific much attention. China and Australia dwarf the aid we have given the Pacific Island Nations in the past years. Even though President Bush named 2007 as the “Year of the Pacific,” we have not seen much change in policy toward the region.

Admittedly, we have re-opened the regional U.S. development assistance mission in Suva, Fiji. But this is just one location. China has established diplomatic relations with each of the 14 island nations. In

our vacuum, their economic influence is expanding, without regard to political and economic performance of actors in the region.

I hope that we can strengthen our relationships with the Pacific Island Nations, ensuring that our friends are not exploited, but rather have the opportunity for sustainable economic development. I look forward to the testimonies of panelists.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I yield back the remainder of my time.

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY THE HONORABLE ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM AMERICAN SAMOA, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR



مملكة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن

مكتب السفير

October 4, 2010

T.H. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee
Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Statement for the Record, September 29, 2010 Hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, entitled "Renewed Engagement: U.S. Policy Toward Pacific Island Nations"

Dear Chairman Faleomavaega,

Thank you for your kind request for a statement for the record from the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). We are pleased to offer the following comments concerning international policies affecting the Pacific island nations.

The UAE believes strongly in the importance of a cooperative global effort to assist the Pacific island nations in dealing with poverty reduction and climate change. We have worked to address these issues collaboratively through international institutions, such as the United Nations (UN) and the League of Arab States (Arab League).

The UAE recently provided funding for a US \$50 million aid program covering fourteen Pacific island countries that are vulnerable to climate change and generally have small economies with rising populations and limited resources. The Arab League endorsed this aid initiative, the announcement of which followed a joint meeting of the Arab League and the (Pacific) Small Islands Development States in Abu Dhabi in June 2010. Aid provided under this initiative will be directed to such developmental fields as education, health and social services, infrastructure and renewable energy. We consider this "Pacific Program" to be an important part of a larger effort to combat poverty in the Pacific island region, and reflects our commitment to the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

The particular vulnerability of the Pacific island nations to climate change ought to be a matter of deep concern to the global community. This is a global problem and will require a global response. H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs, summarized the views of the UAE on this topic when he addressed the UN's 65th Session on September 29, 2010:

"Such strategic cooperation should not only be at the international level, but also at the bilateral, regional and sub-regional levels. The United Arab Emirates translated its conviction in this regard into reality by introducing a new model for international cooperation through its partnership with the Pacific Island States with a view to assisting these states to address their national, environmental, economic and other problems resulting from Climate Change. We hope that the international community will support this partnership, which has been expanded last June to include strengthening cooperation between the Pacific Island States and the member states of the League of Arab States in various areas and in the interest of their peoples."

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record. I commend the Subcommittee's attention to this important matter and your work addressing the needs of your constituents. The UAE looks forward to continued cooperation with the United States and our global partners in resolving the threats of climate change and poverty in the Pacific island region and elsewhere around the world.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba
UAE Ambassador to the United States



Statement to the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment by Ambassador Richard Schifter, former Deputy U.S. Representative in the UN Security Council, U.S. Representative in the UN Human Rights Commission, and Special Assistant to the President and Counselor, National Security Council.

at a hearing on Renewed Engagement: U.S. Policy Toward Pacific Island Nations, September 29, 2010.

The Pacific Island Nations are quite small. They do not have a major impact on the world economy and do not exercise power on the international scene. But they do play a significant role in the United Nations General Assembly, where they cast 12 of the General Assembly's 192 votes. In percentage terms that is the equivalent of 27 votes in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Since the very founding of the United Nations, the United States has been deeply committed to the principles spelled out in the UN Charter. It is, therefore, unfortunate and truly regrettable that in recent decades the agenda of the UN General Assembly has been controlled by a grouping of states that has framed much of that agenda simply to embarrass the United States.

The initial organizers of this grouping, Cuba and Libya, have, over time, succeeded in recruiting the support for their program of almost all African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean states. But there has been one significant regional exception: the Pacific Island Nations. The states of that region vote on a great many roll calls with the United States, abstain, or absent themselves. Some of these Nations have a voting record that is almost identical to that of the United States. Others come close to the voting record of the European states. Others still absent themselves frequently, thus avoiding votes against the United States.

Regrettably, one of the Pacific Island Nations, Solomon Islands, crossed over to the other side in 2008 and stayed on the other side in 2009, when it voted against United States positions 46 times. (The maximum vote against the United States, cast by such countries as Cuba and Libya, was 51). Reportedly, this change in the position of the Solomon Islands followed an arrangement with Iran and Cuba. This single change points up the record of the other Pacific Island states.

Three of the Pacific Island Nations that vote most often with the United States have entered into Compacts of Free Association with the United States under which they receive significant assistance. But a fourth, Nauru, which in 2009 ranked 3rd in voting coincidence with the United States, is not the recipient of U.S. assistance. Others, similarly, have not received significant U.S. assistance since USAID pulled out of the region in 1994.

It is in this context that note should be taken of a highly appropriate proposed Congressional Finding in the draft new foreign assistance bill now under consideration in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. It reads as follows:

“Foreign assistance is not only a reflection of the values, generosity, and goodwill of the people of the United States, but also an essential means for achieving United States foreign policy and national security objectives.”

In a speech on foreign assistance policy, which she delivered last January, Secretary Clinton endorsed the same principle.

Given the role played by the Pacific Island Nations at the United Nations and also given their strategic location in the Pacific Ocean and the national security implications of that location, particularly for our Navy, the renewed engagement of USAID in the region is to be highly welcomed. But it is also important to note that there is a great need for such re-engagement on purely humanitarian grounds.

Global climate change and the resulting rise in sea levels threaten the very existence of some of the islands. Just as we respond to humanitarian crises resulting from sudden earthquakes, storms, and floods, so need we respond to similar threats to the existence of populated communities if the same kind of threat develops over time, as is the case in the Pacific Island Nations. USAID appears to have come up with a program that is highly appropriate and will mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. This program most certainly deserves the strong support of the Congress.

A question needs to be raised, however, about the size of the proposed allocation of funds. Will \$9.5 million, the amount set forth in the budget request, suffice to make a meaningful start on the projected program? We are dealing with a need to relocate threatened communities, making new provisions for food supply, and for access to potable water, all of this to cover a substantial area. It is likely that a significantly larger allocation of funds is needed for a full engagement in confronting the current threat.

USAID has clearly recognized the humanitarian crisis in the region and for that reason proposes to re-engage. The small allocation of funds probably reflects calculations based on the number of people that would benefit from the assistance program. That is why it is important to urge that factors other than *per capita* benefits need to be considered.

First of all there is the extraordinarily serious existential threat of populated areas being flooded, thus forcing the removal of people to other locations and threatening their livelihood. Second, without waiting for enactment of the new foreign assistance act, it would be appropriate to apply the agreed-upon text of the Congressional finding for the need to achieve United States foreign policy and national security objectives. If consideration is given to these important factors, a higher *per capita* allocation would be fully justified.

The question may very well be asked where the money should come from in these days of a budget crunch. The answer is that in terms of the overall budget for State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs we are dealing with very, very small amounts of money. The proposed allocation for the effort to confront the problems of the Pacific

Island Nations created by climate change is about one-fiftieth of 1% of the total budget. A slight reduction of a large fund allocation to a larger country would, if reallocated to the Pacific Islands make a major difference in the Islands and would hardly be noticed in the larger country or countries.

In conclusion, let me congratulate Chairman Faleomavaega for calling this hearing. It is indeed in the national interest to focus on the Pacific Island Nations.

